



The Delta News

5 Rivers Delta Resource Center



Volume II, Issue III

March 2010

Your Outdoor Fun Fact of the Month:

Did you know a cricket could tell you the outside temperature?! According to A.E. Dobleair it can. Published in 1897, Dolbear's Law says to count the number of chirps you hear from a snowy tree cricket in 13 seconds and then add 40 and you will have the current outside temperature.

Don't believe us?
Go ahead...try it!



Happy St. Patrick's Day!



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A Better Way to Park!

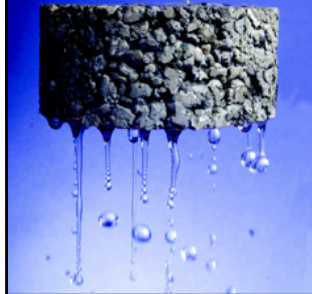
If you've been to 5 Rivers in the last couple of weeks, you probably noticed that our parking lots are under construction. When the facility was first built in 2007, we left the parking spaces unfinished. Our goal was to eventually install "permeable parking."

We completed a permeable parking demonstration project in the main Delta Hall parking lot in 2008. Here, we demonstrated 3 different technologies: Permeable Pavestone, Percstone, and Permeable Concrete. After test-driving these materials for more than a year at Delta Hall, we decided to complete our remaining parking lots using the Permeable Pavestone material. This material has proven to be most durable and requires less maintenance than the other technologies we used.

Delta Hall's Parking Lot Under Construction



An example of how water flows through permeable concrete.

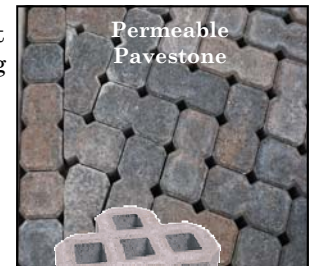


Why Use Permeable Parking?

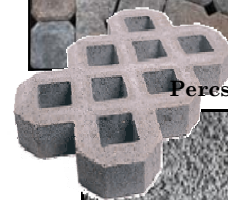
Traditional asphalt and concrete are not permeable, meaning that rainfall cannot soak through them into the soil beneath. Instead, rainwater runs off of traditional asphalt parking lots, carrying with it all manner of trash, dirt, oil, gas, and other fluids that have dripped from cars. This polluted stormwater runs downhill, eventually emptying into the closest waterbody where these pollutants can concentrate and harm aquatic plants and animals. Scientists say that the first quarter inch of rainfall washes the majority of pollutants from a parking lot, so being able to capture and filter that "first flush" of rainfall will go a long way toward protecting our water

quality. As such, permeable parking is designed to have a deep (12-24") bed of porous rock beneath the surface to capture and store the first quarter inch of rainfall so that the pollutants can slowly absorb into the ground below, where they are naturally filtered. The extra construction cost to install the filtration bed is expensive relative to traditional asphalt or concrete. However, as 5 Rivers is surrounded by water on three sides, we felt it was very important to take these extra steps to protect surrounding waterways.

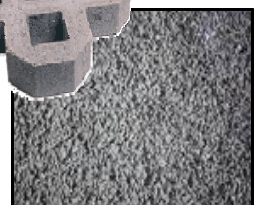
So the next time you stop by for a visit, be sure to check out the new parking lot, and for more information visit "A Better Way to Park" in the Apalachee Exhibit Hall.



Permeable Pavestone



Percstone



Permeable Concrete

Look What's Coming Up At 5 Rivers!

5 Rivers has lots of events coming up to look forward to! On March 13th, our **Saturday Classes** kick off again with "Wilderness Awareness". This class will help students in third through fifth grades become aware of what is found in the environments just outside their doors by using only their five senses. The series will continue on March 27th with "Fun with Feathered Friends." This class, also for students in grades three through five, will cover the makeup of birds with the opportunity for students to make their own birds and enjoy a boat ride aboard the pontoon boat, "The Pelican" to do some bird watching! Both classes are from 11:30am to 2:30pm and are free to the public, but registration is required. A healthy snack will also be provided.

5 Rivers is also teaming up again with the city of Spanish Fort to host the second annual **Delta Woods and Waters Expo**. This expo, held from April 29th to May 1st, will have two days devoted to area school children, who will tour eight different stations from canoeing demonstrations to meteorology. The final day will be free and open to the public, with numerous additional activities, demonstrations, and entertainment.

The 2010 Marine Resources Division "**Conserving and Enjoying Alabama's Coastal Resources**" Calendar artwork will be displayed from March 5 to April 29 in the Apalachee Exhibit Hall. The art contest, open to 4th graders in Mobile and Baldwin county schools, had 1,669 students from 45 schools participate by providing artwork representing fishing, marine life, birding, marine litter, and recreational uses of our coastal resources.

5 Rivers is offering something new this March. On March 18th, 5 Rivers will have **StoryTime** for preschool children and lapbabies. Join us for the story of "*Opossum at Sycamore Lane*" and stay afterwards to meet our own resident opossum, Loretta. For information on any of our upcoming events, stop by our Facebook page or www.Alabama5Rivers.com.



Marine Resources Division Calendar winner Savanna Nichole Duke from Allentown Elementary



Spanish Fort students enjoying the first Delta Woods and Waters Expo.

March Madness Delta Style!

3/2/10	Mobile Bay Sierra Club Meeting	3/13/10	Saturday Class: "Wilderness Awareness"
3/2/10	Alabama Hiking Trail Society Meeting	3/13/10	Delta Safaris: Birding Boat Tour
3/2/10	Mobile Bay Canoe and Kayak Meeting	3/14/10	Blakeley Historic State Park Guided Hike
3/5/10	Marine Resources Division kids Calendar Exhibit Opens	3/14/10	Sunday Matinee: "Life In Cold Blood" followed by a Meet and Greet 5 Rivers Snakes
3/6/10	Delta Safaris: Canoe/Kayak Paddle and BBQ	3/18/10	StoryTime: "Opossum at Sycamore Lane"
3/7/10	Delta Safaris: Birding Boat Tour	3/21/10	Delta Safaris: Canoe/Kayak Paddle and BBQ
3/7/10	Delta Safaris: Guided Photography Hike	3/21/10	Sunday Matinee: "Earth Report"
3/7/10	Delta Safaris: Canoe/Kayak Poker Run	3/25/10	StoryTime: "Box Turtle at Silver Lane Pond"
3/7/10	Sunday Matinee: "Life of Birds" followed by a Guided Birding Hike	3/27/10	Saturday Class: "Fun with Feathered Friends"
3/9/10	Audubon Society Meeting	3/28/10	Sunday Matinee: "Ants: Little Creatures Who Run the World"
3/9/10	Hunter's Education Course	3/28/10	Bottle Creek Indian Mound Tour and Lecture



For more information on any events please visit our website at www.Alabama5Rivers.com or visit our Facebook page.

