

edited by Mitch Leslie



COMMUNITY SITE

Lions and Tigers and Bears

Although polar bear numbers could shrink by more than 30% by midcentury, the population of Siberian tigers appears to have stabilized. And wolf reintroductions in the western United States have been so successful that wildlife managers are now culling animals to limit livestock losses. Hunt down the latest news on bears, seals, weasels, and other mammalian meat-eaters at Carnivore Conservation from French researcher Guillaume Chapron. He started the site 4 years ago to pass the time while he waited for his ecological simulations to run. It now brims with PDFs of reports, theses, and other documents on carnivore preservation and ecology. Visitors can also learn about upcoming meetings and paw through a bibliography with more than 5700 abstracts, including many from conferences and hard-to-find publications.

www.carnivoreconservation.org

DATABASE

Cognitive Canon

POSbase from the University of Bergen in Norway houses PowerPoint summaries of more than 100 influential papers in social and cognitive psychology dating back to 1678. For example, you'll find slides describing Swiss neuropsychiatrist Edouard Claparède's 1911 observations of a learning-disabled woman, which spawned the distinction between explicit (conscious) and implicit (unconscious) memory. Recent additions to the site include a 2005 study showing that observers are more likely to overlook rare objects—a warning for airport screeners and radiologists. Students can use the presentations to catch up on the literature, and teachers can plug them into their lectures, says site co-creator Rolf Reber.

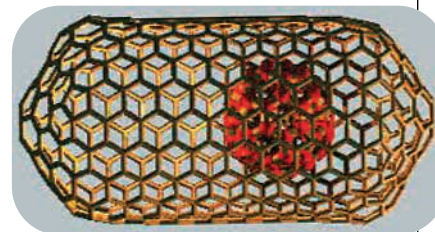
posbase.uib.no/posbase

LINKS

Like, Totally Tubular

They already strengthen some golf clubs, and someday carbon nanotubes could lead to smaller and faster computers. Experts and newbies alike can bolster their nano knowledge at this roundup of nanotube resources from physicist David Tomanek of Michigan State University in East Lansing. Providing an overview of the field are links to more than 50 academic and industry labs working on nanotubes and related technologies. Researchers can fire up a nanotube-designing applet or plan their travel schedules with the calendar of upcoming events. The site also includes a bibliography and listings of commercial and noncommercial nanotube suppliers.

www.pa.msu.edu/cmp/csc/nanotube.html



IMAGES

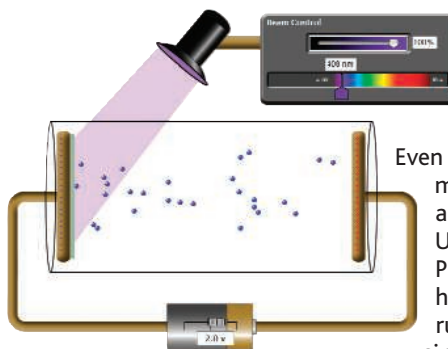
Plants Unbound

Invasive plant species thrive along roadsides and in other disturbed habitats, but they have also forced their way into protected environments such as parks and wilderness areas. Aimed at land managers, researchers, and the general public, Weeds Gone Wild from the U.S. National Park Service provides fact sheets on more than 50 aliens that have taken root in natural areas. The profiles explain where species such as the sprawling mile-a-minute vine (*Polygonum perfoliatum*) came from, where they've settled in the United States, and how they are affecting native species. The vine, a native of Asia, has spread to nine states in the east and Midwest and grows so rapidly that it can leave other plants in the shade.

www.nps.gov/plants/alien

EDUCATION

Physics on the Move



Even a well-equipped physics lab can't match the variety of experiments available at this site from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Physics Education Technology lets high school and college students run more than 40 Java and Flash simulations, investigating topics

from gas properties and ballistics to Faraday's law and nuclear fission. This animation (above), for instance, replicates a phenomenon that puzzled physicists until Einstein came along: the photoelectric effect, in which light shining on a metal surface spurs emission of electrons. Users can tweak variables such as the light's wavelength and intensity and plot the resulting current and electron energy. To help teachers looking for good lab activities, the site features an archive of user-submitted exercises built around the simulations.

www.colorado.edu/physics/phet/web-pages/index.html

Send site suggestions to netwatch@aaas.org. Archive: www.sciencemag.org/netwatch