



Field Notes

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Water is a Miracle Substance

Water is the most abundant liquid on Earth. It covers more than 70% of the earth's surface. Including clouds which are also water it makes our entire planet look blue and white from space. It is the single most important physical substance for our existence on this planet

The earth's supply of water is constantly being recycled just as we are seeing this spring as rains bring abundant life to everything in nature. Water is evaporated from the oceans by the sun and is transpired by forests, crops, and grasslands. The vapor forms clouds that rain onto the land, and flows from the land into lakes and rivers, and finally to the sea. The amount of water that falls on an acre during a one-inch "shower" is 27,154 gallons. I suggest that you expand that figure to a five

inch rain on a 640 acre section of land. I will amaze you and help you understand that why the total amount of water on planet Earth is estimated at around nine million cubic miles.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of water to almost every process on Earth, from the life processes of the lowest bacteria to the shaping of continents. Water is the most familiar of all chemical compounds known to humans. It is essential to all living things, plant and animal. We drink it, we wash with it, we play in it and we cook in it. We are actually more than seventy percent water ourselves.

The presence or absence of water is the single most important factor in the production of crops. It transports nutrients to the plant for use in building all of

the structural components while at the same providing turgor pressure that keeps all the cells inflated and rigid. The transpiration of water vapor through stomates not only cools the plant but also provides the negative pressure required to maintain the flow of water containing vital elements from the soil.

We seldom see pure water because it dissolves so many substances. If we want pure water we have to prepare it laboriously by such means as distillation, ion exchange, and reverse osmosis. Moving water dissolves rock to form caves and to wear away mountains. All of the water on Earth, therefore, is in the form of solutions. The dissolved substances change the properties of water from what they would be in absolutely pure water.

When we receive rain frequently we commonly hear people make statements about the negative effects of too much rain on crops, gardens, landscapes, and the overall quality of life. However, following a period of infrequent rainfall



Outdoor Truths

By Gary Miller

It's been several years since I was too busy to hunt. I can remember one year when I was opening a business that deer season had to be skipped. I never remember missing much of a turkey season until this last year. During the last three weeks of the year, I hunted one time. I was just too busy with so many things going on. I hope that never happens again.

Can a hunter be called a hunter who never hunts? Can a fisherman be called a fisherman who never fishes? Can a runner be called a runner who

never runs? Or how often does one have to participate before he or she can assume a title. And how long must one refrain from a particular activity before the title is taken away? I mean if I went for three years without hunting, could I still consider myself a hunter? If not three, what about five, or ten years? Would I then have to accept the fact that I once was a hunter but not anymore? I think while we may not agree on the time, we all would agree there would come a time when we would have to relinquish the position

we hear statements about how badly we need rain for crops, pastures, lawns, and gardens.

In recent years we have heard statements from powerful people around the world about how we should modify our activities as humans in order to make our

weather better while in fact we are now enjoying some of the best weather in recorded history. Personally, I feel that we should praise our Lord for what we have and get on with the tasks before us.

Thanks for your time.

June 26 deadline approaching for 2016 drought assistance

The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations that June 26 is the filing deadline for federal economic injury disaster loans in Mississippi as a result of the drought that began on Oct. 18, 2016.

This disaster declaration includes the following counties: Attala, Calhoun, Carroll, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Clarke, Clay, Grenada, Holmes, Humphreys, Jasper, Kemper, Lafayette, Lauderdale, Leake, Leflore, Madison, Montgomery, Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Pontotac, Webster, Winston, Yalobusha, and Yazoo in Mississippi.

Under this declaration, the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is available to eligible farm-related and nonfarm-related entities that suffered financial losses as a direct result of this disaster. With the exception of aquaculture enterprises, SBA cannot provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, or ranchers. Nurseries are eligible to apply for economic injury disaster loans for losses caused by drought conditions.

The loans are for working capital and can be up to \$2 million with interest rates of 4

percent for eligible small businesses and 2.625 percent for nonprofit organizations, and terms up to 30 years.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure

website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

Disaster loan information and application forms may also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or by sending an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

Loan applications can be downloaded from the SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster.

we once had.

I once heard a pastor say there are two types of membership models – the club model and the family model. The club model is based upon rules. If one agrees to and follows the rules of the club, he or she is allowed to join. When the rules are broken for an extended period of time, membership is revoked.

The family model establishes a relationship first and while there are rules for each family, the breaking of such rules may harm the harmony of the membership but it doesn't renounce the relationship. For instance, while I may break the rules of my family, I will always be in the family. What model do you think God has decided to base our relationship to him on? I hope you said the family model. It's true. As God did in the life of Adam and Eve, Abraham, and the Children of Israel, God wants a relationship with us built on grace and faith that he initiates. The do's and don'ts of such a relationship are not there to establish it, but to make it the most fruitful.

This is what separates Christianity from all other religions and as a result it is the only one that can give absolute certainty concerning eternal life. This means while I may miss a season or two, I can still be called a Christian. Not because of my previous actions because of permanent family.

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Completed applications should be mailed to:

U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Completed loan applications must be returned to SBA no later than June 26, 2017.



Four high school graduates were honored at a baccalaureate service that was held at Saint Paul Church of God in Christ on Sunday, May 21. Pictured above are (from left): Prayer Lafaith Roberson, Elijah Dean, Pastor William Dean, Jr., Porsha Cross and Tyler Patterson.

(Photo submitted)

MEMA advocates preparedness for 2017 hurricane season

As Hurricane Season begins next week, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency wants to remind all Mississippi residents to begin preparing for the 2017 Hurricane Season.

As part of Mississippi's Hurricane Preparedness week, MEMA Executive Director Lee Smithson reminds Mississippians to discuss their Family and Business Disaster Plans. The plan should include an evacuation method and route, a communications plan and a disaster supply kit.

"I think it is safe to say that every Mississippian was affected by Hurricane Katrina 12 years ago," Smithson said. "Just because we haven't had a major hurricane in several years, doesn't mean that it won't happen this year. Now is the time to start planning for such an event."

Residents should contact their county emergency management directors to learn about emergency plans for their area, locations of shelters and evacuation zones and routes. For a full list of contact information for county emergency management directors, go to <http://www.msma.org/local-ema/>.

communications plan can help residents locate family members and friends who also evacuated.

During and after a storm, telephone service could be limited. It is often easier to call long distance, outside the disaster area, or to even send a text message from a mobile device or from social media.

- Ask an out-of-state friend or relative to serve as the family contact person.

- Make sure all family members know the name, address and telephone number for this contact person.

Develop and maintain a Family Disaster Supply Kit with life sustaining items such as:

- Non-perishable food and water for at least three to five days.

- A first aid kit with prescription medications.

- A battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries.

- Cash and traveler's checks.

- Specialty items such as baby formula and pet-care items.

If you evacuate remember to take your supply kit with you along with other things like bedding if you are going to a shelter. For more information on important items to include in a disaster supply kit, go to <http://www.msma.org/be-prepared/disaster-kits/>

Gov. Phil Bryant declared May 29-June 2 as Hurricane Preparedness Week in Mississippi.

Download the 2017 MEMA Hurricane Preparedness Guide at <http://www.msma.org/2017-hurricane-preparedness-guide>. Follow MEMA's social media platforms on Facebook, Twitter and Snapchat.

The annual meeting for the **Castalian Water Association**

will be held

Monday, June 12, 2017, at

7:00 p.m. at Durant City Hall.

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