



The Fishing Line



Summer, 2006

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Upcoming FRIENDS Activities

In this edition of *The Fishing Line*, we'd like to tell you a bit more about a part of our study that involves testing with adults and teens. We will be focusing on this piece of the Center in the coming months, and we hope that you will consider participating in it (if you haven't already).

For this part of the study, we have tests that look at the way people learn and remember things. Studies in both people and animals have shown that memory and attention can be affected by exposure to the chemicals that are found in locally caught fish, such as PCBs. The testing is done in our office, one-on-one with a FRIENDS interviewer. Much of the testing is done on computer, but you don't need to know how to use a computer to participate. After the testing is done, there is a short interview to update information we have on file. As part of this study, we also need a small sample of blood that we can test to find out whether participants have been exposed to PCBs or other chemicals found in fish from local waters.

Everyone who has completed the enrollment interview is eligible to participate in this part of the study. We know that some of you have had concerns about giving a blood sample in the past, but we hope that you will reconsider and agree to participate in this important part of the study. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the FRIENDS office and we will be happy to answer any questions you have.

In addition to the testing with the adults enrolled in the study, we are also doing a similar study with teenagers. The testing is very similar to what is done with adults, and a blood sample is also obtained. After testing, there are interviews with both the teen and a parent, to obtain health and diet information. If you have a teenage child, we hope that you will encourage them to participate in the study as well.

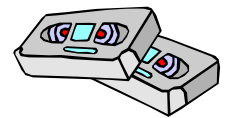
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Free Educational Videos

Would you like to learn more about the chemicals found in fish from local lakes and rivers, and how to protect your family from them? The FRIENDS Center, together with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, has produced an educational video that we are offering free to FRIENDS participants who would like more information about these topics. The video is available in VHS cassette in either Hmong or Lao, with English closed-captioning.

If you would like a copy of the tape, please call the FRIENDS Center at 920-432-0015 to set up a time to pick one up at our office.



Farewell, Mai Nou!

Those of you who have had contact with the FRIENDS Center over the past couple of years have probably gotten to know our Project Manager (and former editor of this newsletter), Mai Nou Lor-Vang. It is with great sadness that we announce that Mai Nou has resigned her position with FRIENDS to complete her education and spend more time with her family.

Mai Nou was a tremendous asset to the Center, and she will be greatly missed. We thank her for everything she has done for the Center and we wish her all the best!



Product Recall Warnings

Reebok is recalling 300,000 children's charm bracelets because a 4-year-old child from Minneapolis died from lead poisoning after swallowing a piece of the jewelry. The bracelets are silver, with heart-shaped charms engraved with the "Reebok" name. They were given away between May 2004 and March 2006 with the purchase of children's shoes in major shoe stores across the country. The bracelets contain high levels of lead, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said.



In a separate action Thursday, the CPSC said about 580,000 necklace and ring sets, imported by Dollar Tree Distribution Inc., are being recalled for a lead poisoning danger. The rings are silver-colored, adjustable, and come in a variety of designs with a toy "gem" in the center. The necklaces have a black string with silver-colored clasps and a silver-colored charm with a "gem" in the center. The packages are printed with "Mood Necklace," Mood Ring," "Glow in the Dark Necklace," "Glow in the Dark Ring," "UV Necklace" or "UV Ring." The "UV" jewelry packaging reads, "The Sun's Energy Will Change The Color." Printed on the back of the packaging is "SKU.815485" and the name "Mannix."

The jewelry was sold at Dollar Tree, Dollar Bills, Dollar Express, Greenbacks, Only \$1 and Super Dollar Tree stores nationwide from September 2003 through February 2006. **If you own either the Reebok or Dollar Tree jewelry you should take it away from your children immediately, the CPSC said.** For more information, call CPSC at 800-638-2772, Reebok at 800-994-6260, or Dollar Tree at 800-876-8077. (Reprinted from www.msnbc.msn.com/id/11974094/)

Health and Safety Information: Insects and Pesticide Use



It is important to protect yourself and your children from the mosquitoes and insects that come out during warm weather. Here are a few simple tips that can help you prevent insect bites and help you to use bug repellents safely.

1. Wear light colored clothing that covers as much skin as possible. You can then spray bug repellents on your clothing.
2. If possible, avoid being outdoors after dusk because that is when mosquitoes are most likely to bite you
3. Any bug repellent containing citronella is a safe choice for children. It only works for 2 hours, so you need to reapply it.
4. DEET is a stronger repellent, but do not use insect repellents containing more than 10 percent DEET on children because the chemical can be harmful. If you do use a DEET repellent on your child, try to wash it off once you're back inside.

Most importantly, follow the directions on the bottle and do not use more than is needed.



RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS

The FRIENDS Center airs announcements twice a month on Hmong Radio. The Hmong radio program is on Saturdays, from 5:00 –7:00 p.m. on 88.1 FM, Wisconsin Public Radio. Listen for these upcoming announcements:



June	Pesticide use Helmet safety
July	Firework safety Sun safety
August	Lead poisoning Water safety

Look for the next issue of *The Fishing Line* this August!

If you have any questions about this newsletter or the FRIENDS Center you can call our office at 432-0015.