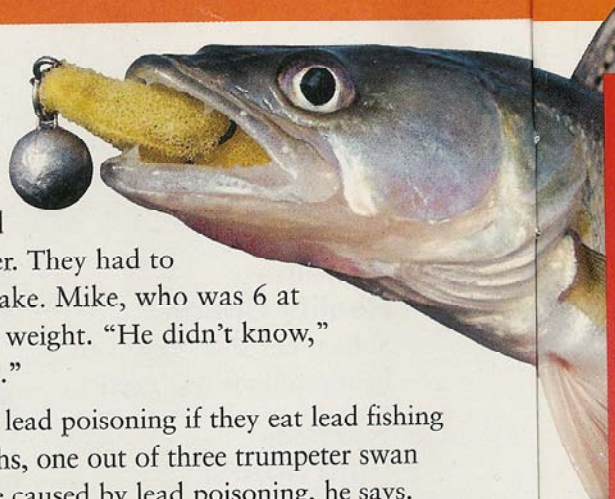


Get the Lead Out



Mike Browne has been honored for helping spread the word about lead fishing weights. He was given one award at the White House and then traveled to Sweden to receive another.

When Mike Browne of Milton, Mass., was looking for an Eagle Scout project, he recalled a fishing trip he took with his dad years earlier. They had to cut a line, releasing a fishing weight into the lake. Mike, who was 6 at the time, asked his dad what happened to the weight. “He didn’t know,” says Mike. “I wanted to answer that question.”

Mike, now 17, learned that birds can die from lead poisoning if they eat lead fishing weights. More than half of common loon deaths, one out of three trumpeter swan deaths, and one-fourth of bald eagle deaths are caused by lead poisoning, he says.

So Mike started Get the Lead Out of Fishing (www.replacelead.com). He visits fishing derbies to ask anglers to trade their lead fishing weights for new lead-free weights. Everyone is glad to help. “They actually had no idea their sport was harming birds,” Mike says.

Since starting the program, Mike has collected about 66 pounds of lead, which have been safely recycled. He received the President’s Environmental Youth Award in 2007 and traveled to Sweden in 2008 to receive an award from the United Nations Environmental Programme.

Read more about the dangers of lead on page 26.

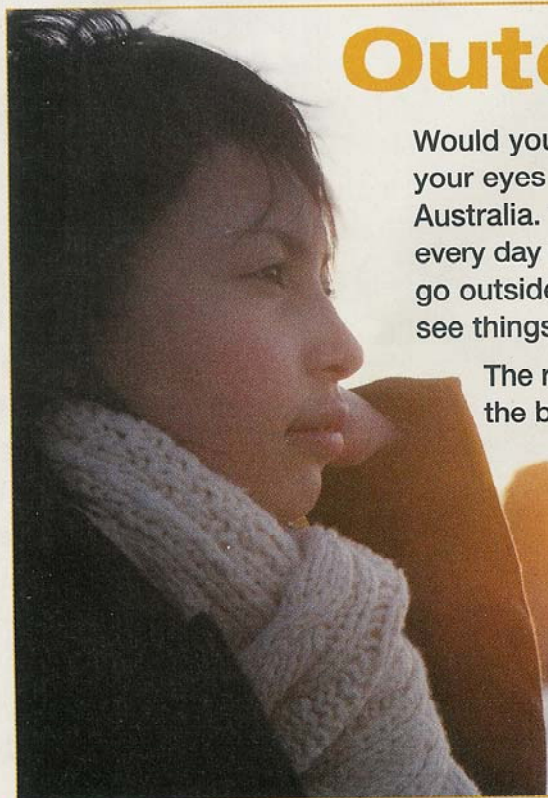
Outdoor Eyes

Would you believe that going outside to play might help keep your eyes healthy? It is possible, according to researchers in Australia. Twelve-year-olds who spent the most time outdoors every day were less likely to be nearsighted than kids who didn’t go outside as much. People who are nearsighted, or *myopic*, see things that are near the eyes most clearly.

The researchers suspect the time outdoors helps because the bright sunlight keeps the eyes healthy.

Did you know?

Half of all people in the U.S. have a problem with their eyesight, according to a government study.



Clockwise from top right: Courtesy of the FDA; Fedor Kondratenko/Shutterstock; ABSODELS/Getty Images

Jonathan Kantor/Getty Images