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@ Random

A Newsletter About and For the People, Business and Activities of Random House, Inc.

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WESTMINSTER & CRAWFORDSVILLE COMPLETE THEIR FIRST VERY SUCCESSFUL, VERY WORTHWHILE AND VERY GRATIFYING YEAR OF THE ADOPT-A-SCHOOL PROGRAM. THE IMPACT THE PROGRAM HAD ON THE SCHOOLS, THE CHILDREN AND OUR EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEER MENTORS CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO BE MEASURED. TAKE A LOOK INSIDE!



RANDOM HOUSE

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So, what do you do in your spare time?

Geocaching –

Bob Zinn's High-Tech Treasure Hunt

Have you ever dreamed about finding hidden treasure? Bob Zinn of IT doesn't dream about it any more. Since August of 2002, he has been Geocaching (pronounced geo-cashing) and has found over 1000 hidden treasures throughout the United States and five other countries. On most weekends, you can expect to find him using his GPS (Global Positioning System) to track down hidden containers in area parks and forests.



Bob finds another cache inside a cave near Prettyboy Reservoir.

What does a Geocache look like? Geocache containers come in all types of forms and sizes. It could be as small as capsule, the size of a pencil eraser, or as large as 5 gallon bucket. Some caches are made to look like something else in disguise. They could be located inside a fake rock, a hollowed out log along the trail, inside a pinecone hanging from a tree, or some other inventive container or hiding place.

Geocaches are everywhere. There probably is a cache hidden

within a mile or two of your house. There are about 100 caches hidden within a 15 mile radius from the Random House distribution center in Westminster. A cache hidden by Zinnware (Bob Zinn's geocaching name) called "Random Books" has been located in the nearby Bennett Cerf Park for many years. Its theme is "books" and contains books for people to take and trade. Hidden caches goes well beyond this area. In fact, there are over 168,661 active caches hidden in 215 countries. Zinnware is not alone in his quest for scavenger hunting. Random House employees Rob Scheungrab (HYPERLINK "<http://www.geocaching.com/profile/?guid=bfe7af97-5d9a-4511-9e06-8bb1f37a6a67>") scheungrab), Steve Kerzel (skerzel), and Michael Battle also partake in the fun with their families and friends. There are over 20,000 geocachers just like them throughout the world hiding and finding caches. Zinnware has hidden or maintains about 28 caches in the Maryland and Pennsylvania region.



How do you go about finding a cache? Hidden Geocaches are recorded in a website and can be easily listed. To begin your adventure, log into the HYPERLINK "<http://www.geocaching.com>" <http://www.geocaching.com> website and key in your local zip code to search and list caches in that area. Each cache listed will have a set of longitude and latitude coordinates that you can enter into your GPS as a waypoint. Once entered, you use your GPS to take you to the area where the cache is hidden. Accuracy of coordinates to pinpoint the location of the container is usually between 5 and 50 feet.

Once found, the cache containers remain in place for others to find later. All physical caches contain a log book or log sheet that is signed by the finder. Larger containers will contain items to trade such as books, flashlights, kid's toys, etc. Some even contain money, remote control cars, or other items of interest. Once back home, the geocacher logs into the HYPERLINK "<http://www.geocaching.com>" <http://www.geocaching.com> website and creates a log entry for that specific cache and describes their adventure finding, or not finding the cache.

Bob Zinn claims that "caching is more than just the challenge of finding hidden containers". His adventures have taken him to places he never realized existed such as scenic vistas, charming city parks, historical and educational sites, and beautiful trails that meander through woods. Geocaching provides opportunities to see all types of wildlife such as witnessing deer swimming across a lake, stingrays swimming 6 miles off shore in the Caribbean, or turkeys feeding down the trail.

Yes, geocaching can take you anywhere.