SciGirls approach is diverse, practical

By Iricka Berlinger

The SciGirls are young, intelligent and love science just as much as any boy.

The two-week academic camp just for girls is a partnership between the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory and WFSU.

“We learn such a wide range of sciences,” said SciGirl Danielle MacVicar. “It really expands on things we learned at school.”

The all-female atmosphere takes a lot of pressure off the girls, Mag Lab Educational Program Director Pat Dixon explained.

Every day, the girls learn about different areas of science.

“They don’t have to worry about how they look or feel that they need to hide their interest in science in fear of being perceived as un-cool.”

The application process gets tougher each year. This year 32 girls were chosen out of more than 80 applicants. Each girl must write an essay about her interest in science and have teachers send in letters of support.

“We try to get a good distribution of ages and

Help the environment; Give up your water bottle

Buy a refillable bottle.

Donna Meredith tells you why in her “Green-Lite” column.

Page 10

You’re never too young to learn how to swim

Even infants can be taught how to keep afloat.

Instructor Julia Daum tells all about it.

Page 23

Want to see white squirrels?

Teresa Fillmon, Kickin’ It w/ squirrels!

In June, the Tallahassee Humane Society will host a ceremony to release 50 white squirrels into the wild.

Page 24

His Kids Too! awakens desires

4 which states “God will tem in which they live, and it will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord.”

Page 26
SCIGIRLS

From Page 1

schools,” Dixon said.
This year girls were chosen from schools in Tallahassee, Quincy and Bainbridge, Ga.

Every day, the girls — separated into rising sixth- to eighth-graders and rising eighth- through 10th-graders — learn about different areas of science.

“We try to organize the activities based on what the girls indicate on their application,” Dixon said.

This year, the activities included Florida State University’s Antarctic Research Facility, where the group got to experience the negative 22-degree Celsius temperatures of the storage room where scientists store specimens from the inhabited continent.

“The giant freezer has been my favorite so far,”

said SciGirl Joran Bickett as she shivered thinking about the field trip. “It was so cold.”

They also took trips to Torreya State Park, Wakulla Springs, Maclay Gardens and new this year, Seacrest Wolf Preserve in Chipley.

The camp’s inspiration came from PBS’s Dragontv, a television program aimed at girls interested in science. A grant from PBS made it possible for the camp to get off the ground for the first two years. Now in its third year, the camp is fully funded by the Mag Lab and WFSU. PBSJ, an engineering, construction and architecture firm, has donated money to keep the camp going for at least three more years.