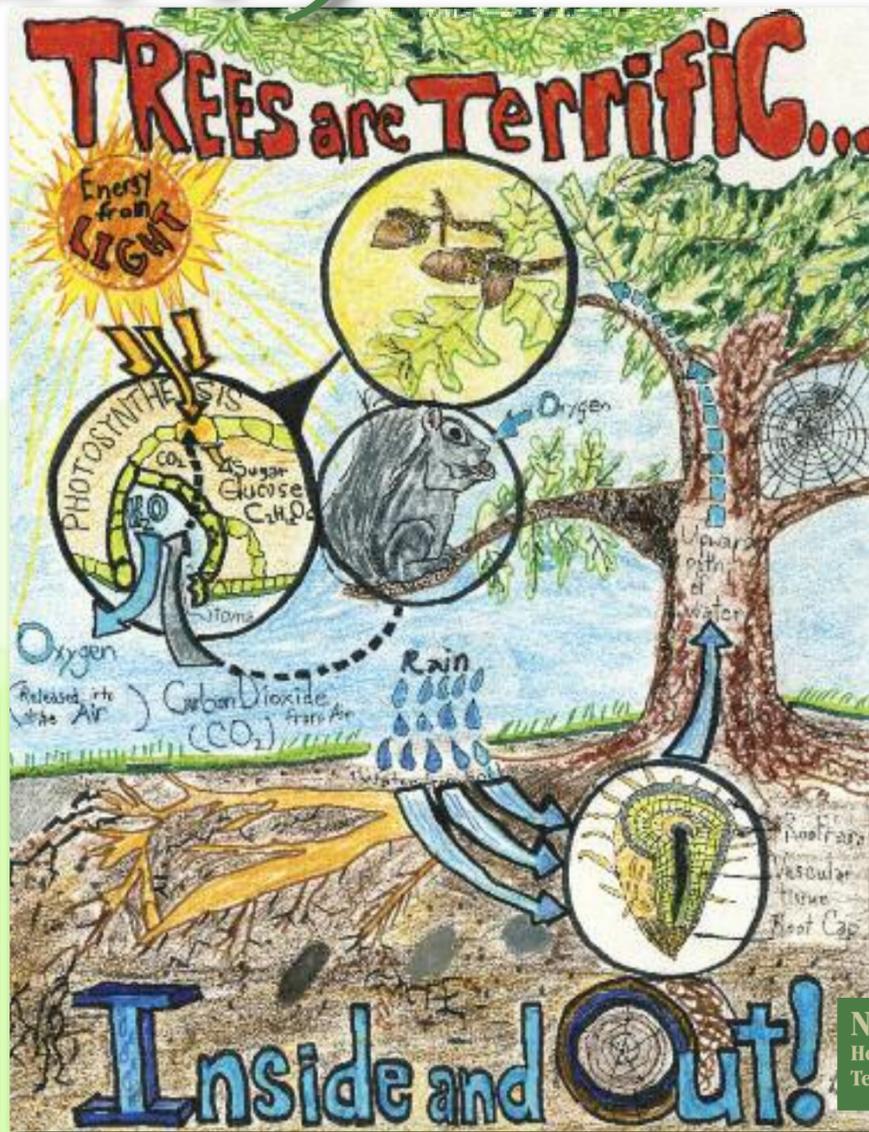


2009 Arbor Day - Earth Day Calendar



Nathan Schwartz • First Place
Homeschool, West Bend
Teacher: Laura Schwartz

My Favorite Forest Animal

By Micaela Jobke

My fur can be white, gray or black,
and we do not travel in a pack.
We do not hibernate when it's chilly,
sit and watch us, you'll think we're silly.
We can climb a tree in the blink of an eye,
do not try to catch me I'm really quite shy.
My tail is bushy and my hands are so cute,
we often snack on nuts and fruit.
We make a nest in the hole of a tree,
it's great to be so wild and free.
We can't come in your house to be your pet,
we look like a drowned rat when we're wet.
We come in many colors and sizes,
don't be shocked if we show you some surprises.
We like to come out during the day,
we gather our food, run and play.
We gather and store our food in the fall,
watch us walk on electric wires up tall.
You can't really tell if I'm a boy or girl,
my favorite forest animal is the squirrel.

St. Martin Lutheran School, Clintonville
Teacher: Ms. Teresa Buelow
First Place



Wisconsin Department
of Natural Resources
PUB-FR-128 2008

Wisconsin's forests are an amazing resource! To honor the valuable services provided by our trees and forests, it is my pleasure to share with you the Department of Natural Resources' 2009 Arbor Day-Earth Day calendar. With each new month you will discover the artwork and thoughts of Wisconsin students as they express their feelings about our diverse forest resource.

The poster contest theme, "Trees are Terrific . . . Inside and Out!" challenged fifth grade students to use their artistic ability and showcase the vital role of trees. On the inside, trees are busy making food, soaking up water and nutrients from the soil, and producing the materials necessary to grow bigger and stronger. Now that I've given you the "inside" scoop about trees, let's get "out"! Outside, trees also help our communities by providing shade and beauty, filtering water, cleaning and cooling the air, reducing stormwater runoff, and preserving soil. Trees are at work every day of the year, and they are certainly an important resource.

The writing contest theme, "My Favorite Forest Animal," asked Wisconsin fourth graders to compose a narrative which shared their thoughts on an animal that plays a special role in the forest ecosystem. There are a wide variety of animals across our state, big and small, and many of them depend on forests for survival. Trees provide them with shelter, food, a resting place, a lookout tower, or even a hiding spot. Without forests we would not be able to enjoy many of the wildlife species that grace our state. So, you might say that trees provide us with important "creature comforts"!

But forests are also important in many other ways! They play a very important role in our everyday lives:

- Wisconsin's urban forests annually provide over \$64 million in environmental services including carbon storage, air pollution removal, and energy savings.

- The forest products industry is Wisconsin's second largest manufacturing employer, providing 1 in every 6 manufacturing jobs in the state, and a total revenue of almost \$20 billion annually.
- Every day, the average person uses about 4.5 pounds of wood products (paper, pencils, newspapers, etc.). Over the course of a year, that adds up to a tree 16-18" in diameter and one hundred feet tall!
- Forest-based recreation (hiking, camping, wildlife viewing, etc.) annually contributes \$5.5 billion to Wisconsin's economy.

Let's face it, trees "spruce" up our lives! With your help, Wisconsin's forests will continue to play an important role in the future. I hope you will join us in celebrating the benefits we receive from our forests and in joining the challenge to protect and sustainably manage them for future generations to enjoy. Learn how you can become a partner in caring for and supporting Wisconsin's forests by visiting the DNR forestry website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry>.

Paul DeLong
Chief State Forester



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

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2009 Arbor Day Poster Contest

The Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division is sponsoring the seventeenth annual Arbor Day Poster Contest for all state 5th graders. The contest is part of a national competition sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation and is the culmination of Arbor Day lesson plans that are provided to each 5th grade teacher. Over 1,700 students participated in the 2008 contest.

The artwork must be original and signed by the artist. It may be done in marker, crayon, watercolor, ink, acrylic, or tempera paint. Bright colors make the best poster! No computer generated art or glued collages are allowed. It must be no larger than 14" x 18" and no smaller than 8½" x 11". The theme must be on the poster, spelled correctly and easy to read. The artwork must be original and signed by the artist. Wisconsin recommends that students sign their artwork one inch above any border.

Only one poster may be submitted per school, so a school contest is necessary. Judging guidelines are included in the lesson plans and contest rules.

The 2009 theme is "Trees are Terrific . . . in Cities and Towns!"

Awards are given to the top three posters in the state and the first place poster will be forwarded to the national competition. Wisconsin's first, second, and third place winners will be presented with plaques and savings bonds of \$100, \$75, and \$50, respectively, and their teachers will receive scholarships for professional development – a Learning, Experiences & Activities in Forestry (LEAF) clinic and a Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshop. Teachers will also be honored with books at an award ceremony in Madison in spring 2009. The Wisconsin Arborist Association donates the student awards. LEAF, Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program, and the Wisconsin Department of

Natural Resources' Project Learning Tree program will each provide the scholarships. The three student winners will also receive a landscape tree to be planted at their school or in their community, donated by the Wisconsin Nursery Association. The top 12 posters will be featured in the DNR's 2010 Arbor Day-Earth Day calendar and will appear on the Environmental Education for Kids website, EEK!

Fifth grade public and private school teachers were contacted about this contest in October 2008.

Entries must be postmarked by February 17, 2009.

For more information or additional contest packets contact: Arbor Day Poster Contest, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 or e-mail jacinda.tessmann@wisconsin.gov.

20th Annual Forest Appreciation Week Writing Contest

My Favorite Tree

Each year the Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division encourages fourth grade students across Wisconsin to think and write about our tree and forest resources through the Forest Appreciation Week Writing Contest. This year's theme, **My Favorite Tree**, asks students to write about a tree that they think is special. Regardless of shape, size, or color, trees have the ability to trigger our imaginations and create fond memories. Students are encouraged to write about a tree species that they find to be unique or a forest tree with which they have had an extraordinary experience.

Contest Requirements:

- Fourth grade students only.
- Submit only one (1) entry per classroom.

- Any written form, including essay, poetry, or other type of creative writing is acceptable. The entry must be 200 words or less and follow the theme,

My Favorite Tree.

- Writing must be the original work of a student currently in fourth grade.
- A participant report form must be attached to your classroom entry. Your classroom entry must be sent to the judging team coordinator listed in the 2009 writing contest packet.

Note: Contest packets will be mailed to fourth grade teachers in late January.

- A semi-finalist will be chosen from each CESA District and their essays will appear in the 2010 Arbor Day-Earth Day Calendar and on the WDNR children's website Environmental Education for Kids, *EEK!*
- A panel of judges from the Department of Natural Resources will review the 12 semi-finalists and select the top three state winners. The three state winners and their teachers will be recognized for their achievement at a special celebration in our State Capitol. The first, second, and third place students will be presented with savings bonds of \$100, \$75, and \$50, respectively. The Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association donates these awards. The students will also receive a landscape tree to be planted at their school or in their community, donated by the Wisconsin Nursery Association, and their teachers will receive scholarships for professional development – a Learning, Experiences & Activities in Forestry (LEAF) clinic and a Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshop, plus additional classroom supplies.

Entries must be postmarked by March 6, 2009.

For more information contact: Forest Appreciation Week Writing Contest, Wisconsin DNR Forestry Division, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921 or e-mail genny.fannucchi@wisconsin.gov.

Arbor Day Free Tree Program for Fourth Graders

Arbor Day has been an American tradition since 1872. A pioneer and journalist, J. Sterling Morton, introduced a resolution in Nebraska creating Arbor Day as a day "especially set apart and consecrated for tree planting." Arbor Day has been celebrated in Wisconsin since 1883 and always falls on the last Friday in April.

To encourage the recognition of Arbor Day the Wisconsin Legislature in 1979 passed a law directing the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' state nurseries to provide a free seedling to each fourth grade student in Wisconsin. Each year the state nurseries distribute nearly 80,000 seedlings to fourth grade pupils in Wisconsin for the celebration of Arbor Day.

In early November, a letter is sent to each public and private elementary school explaining how to order the trees. Orders are only accepted from schools, not individuals, and only one order per school or school district.

Arbor Day offers the unique opportunity to educate students on the value and care of trees and forests. Planting trees enhances Wisconsin's natural beauty, provides wildlife habitat, prevents soil erosion, improves air quality, provides shade and conserves valuable energy. As the student's tree grows, their knowledge of and respect for the forest environment grows as well.

For additional information on Wisconsin's Arbor Day Free Tree Program, contact the Griffith State Nursery, 473 Griffith Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494, telephone (715) 424-3700.



Students, teachers and dignitaries celebrate Arbor Day at the 2008 Special Achievement Ceremony at the State Capitol. First Row (L to R): First Place Writing, Micaela Jobke, St. Martin Lutheran School; Third Place Poster, Hannah Glinski, St. Monica School; Second Place Writing, Josie Bacon, MHLT School; Third Place Writing, Skyler Fisher, Hillsboro Elementary; Second Place Poster, Isabella Reichardt, Webster Elementary; First Place Poster, Nathan Schwartz, Homeschool

Second Row (L to R): DNR Secretary Matt Frank; Kathy Swingen, Wisconsin Nursery Association; Merlin Becker, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association; Janet Hutchens, Project Learning Tree; Principal Jerry Jiter of St. Martin Lutheran School; Judy DiMattina of MHLT School; Jenny Shore of Hillsboro Elementary; Laura Schwartz, Homeschool Instructor; Sarah Gilbert, LEAF; Noelle Burns of Webster Elementary; Chief State Forester Paul DeLong, DNR; Josh DePouw, Wisconsin Arborists Association



Students, teachers, sponsors and family celebrating achievement. First Row (L to R): First Place Poster, Nathan Schwartz, Homeschool; Third Place Writing, Skyler Fisher, Hillsboro Elementary; Third Place Poster, Hannah Glinski, St. Monica School; Second Place Writing, Josie Bacon, MHLT School; Second Place Poster, Isabella Reichardt, Webster Elementary; First Place Writing, Micaela Jobke, St. Martin Lutheran School; Janet Hutchens, Project Learning Tree; Chief State Forester Paul DeLong, DNR

Second Row (L to R): Laura Schwartz, Homeschool Instructor; Josh DePouw, Wisconsin Arborists Association; Jenny Shore of Hillsboro Elementary; Judy DiMattina of MHLT School; Kathy Swingen, Wisconsin Nursery Association; Noelle Burns of Webster Elementary; Merlin Becker, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association; Principal Jerry Jiter of St. Martin Lutheran School; Jeremy Solin, LEAF



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, audiotope, etc.) upon request. Please call (608) 267-7494 for more information.

Many thanks to all the Wisconsin students and teachers that participated in our statewide Arbor Day contests and the following WDNR staff and colleagues for their contributions to the design and editing of the calendar and project support: Genny Fannucchi, Forest Resource Education and Awareness Specialist; Tessa Jilot, Forestry Educator; Richard Rideout, Urban Forestry Coordinator; Jacinda Tessmann, Forestry Outreach Specialist; Bryn Scriver, Invasive Species Specialist; Bernie Williams, Forestry Communications Specialist.

January



Cayla Mrnik • Honorable Mention
Deerfield Elementary School, Oak Creek
Teacher: Amy Asala

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DECEMBER 08 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	FEBRUARY 09 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28			1 New Year's Day! Make a resolution to plant a tree this year.	2 Put your old Christmas tree near a bird feeder. They make cozy resting spots for cold birds.	3
4	5 What is your favorite tree?	6	7 Black bear cubs being born in dens. The cubs are so tiny they could fit in the palm of your hand!	8 Listen for drumming woodpeckers. They peck at trees to find food, communicate with other birds, and attract a mate.	9	10
11 Full (Wolf) Moon Conservationist Aldo Leopold born (1887)	12 Count the birds you see today. What kinds are they?	13	14 Time to watch bald eagles along lower Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers.	15	16 Listen for black-capped chickadees as they begin their spring courtship songs.	17 How do Canada geese and robins spend the winter months?
18	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20	21	22 Identify fresh tracks in the snow. Where do you think the animal is going?	23	24 Beavers, red fox, wolves, and Canada lynx begin mating.
25	26 Chinese New Year - Year of the Ox	27	28 Fun Forestry Fact: Are you wearing a tree? Fabrics such as rayon are made from tree fibers.	29	30	31 Learn about winter tree identification.

My Favorite Forest Animal

By Andrea Lutz

My favorite forest animal is a bear cub. I bet it could eat a whole Subway sub. It doesn't really eat subs, they eat fish, and the fish doesn't get served in a dish. Bear cubs eat lots of berries too; because that is what they're supposed to do.

Cubs are little, cute, and hairy. They also can be sort of scary. Bear cubs can be black or brown. They love to climb up and down. Bear cubs are usually born in doubles, and two can cause lots of troubles.

Cubs are born while mother naps as the winter's cold air zaps. The playful cubs grow big and strong; mother bear help them along. Bear cubs remind me of my teddy bear, and about their future we should all care.

Turtle Lake Elementary, Turtle Lake
Teacher: Darcie Ann Schindler
Honorable Mention

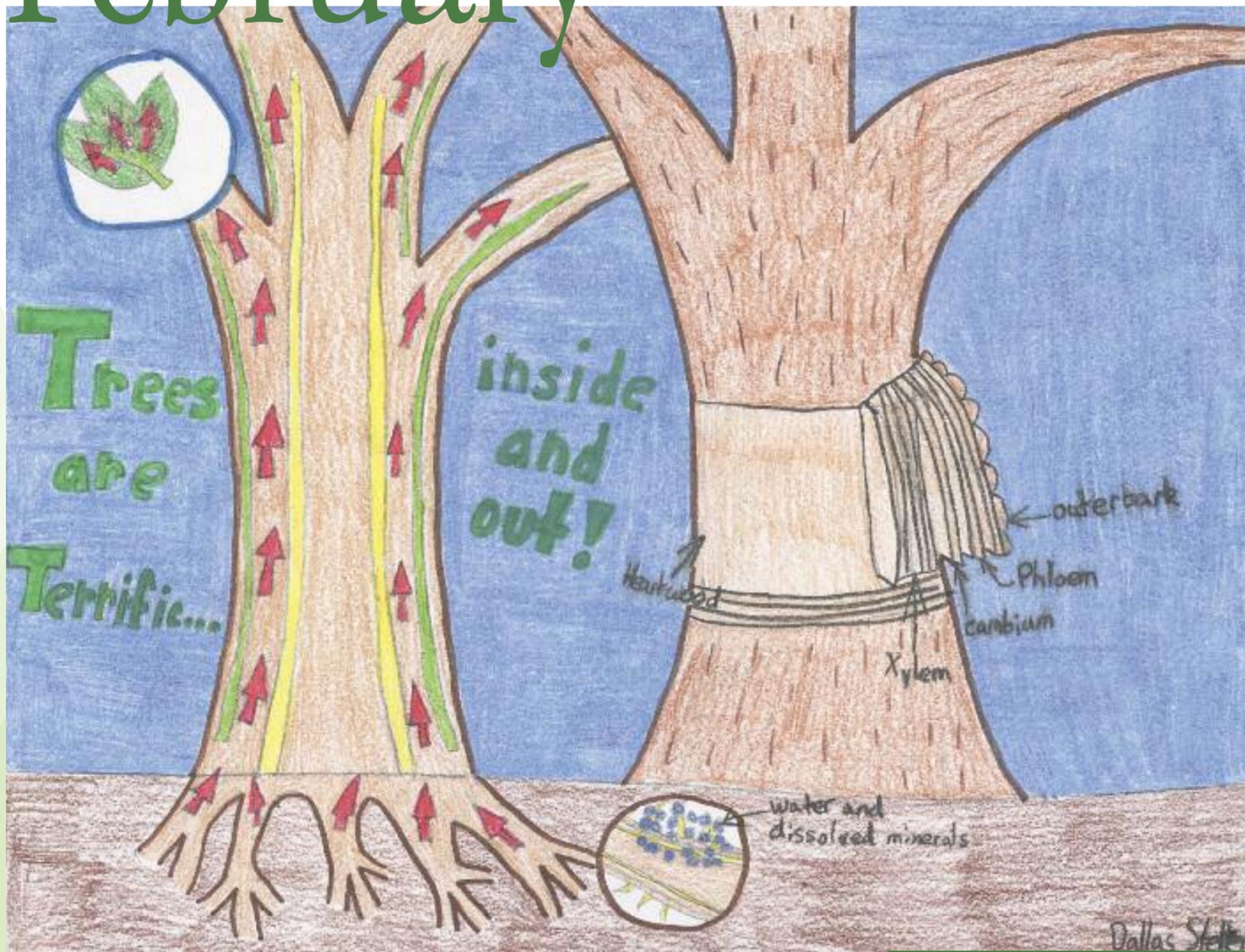
Bear cubs are born in winter while females are resting in their den. The cubs are so tiny they could fit in the palm of your hand, but they grow to six pounds by springtime.



courtesy of Dan Hendro



February



Dallas Stelter • Honorable Mention
Shiocton Elementary, Shiocton
Teacher: Laurie McNichols

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Groundhog Day	3 Look for cardinals resting in trees or sitting at your birdfeeder. Soon they will begin their spring songs.	4 Halfway Point of Winter — Think Spring!	5	6 Great horned owls nesting.	7 Coyotes begin mating. Sometimes they will use abandoned badger, woodchuck, fox, or skunk burrows to make their dens.
8 Paper was invented by the Chinese around 105 A.D.	9 Full (Snow) Moon	10 Are there buds on the branches yet? Look closely with a magnifying glass.	11	12 Can you name three ways trees keep you warm in the winter?	13 First magazine in America produced (1741). How many trees does it take to make the paper for one magazine?	14 Valentine's Day Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) Grant Submission Deadline
15	16 President's Day	17 Arbor Day Poster Contest for 5th graders entries due. This year's theme: <i>Trees are Terrific... in Cities and Towns!</i>	18 Maple sap flows when day temperatures are above 40 degrees. Can you use three words to describe maple syrup?	19	20 Time to build a birdhouse.	21 Fun Forestry Fact: The sugar maple was selected to be our State Tree in 1893 in a vote by schoolchildren across Wisconsin.
22	23 National Invasive Weed Awareness Week (Feb 23-Feb 27)	24 Bobcats and mink begin mating.	25 Listen for the arrival of Canada geese.	26	27 Name four birds that live in the forest.	28 Learn an outdoor skill. You never know when it may come in handy!

JANUARY 09	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
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MARCH 09	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
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The gray wolf, or timber wolf, is the largest wild dog in North America. Hundreds of years ago nearly 5,000 wolves lived across the state, but today there are only about 600.



courtesy of Bob Queen

Wolves and their Pups

By Hannah Toland

Wolves are my favorite forest animals because they look very soft and they are many different colors. Most wolves look different and have different colors. Some wolves have very thick fur and some have thin fur. I like the ones with the thick hair. I also like wolves because they look like dogs and they are related to dogs.

Wolf's babies are called pups. Pups remind me of puppies because they look a lot like each other. They probably look alike because they are related. Pups like to play with other pups. Wolves and their pups live in dens underground. Wolves have to dig tunnels that lead to their den. Each tunnel is about as long as a car.

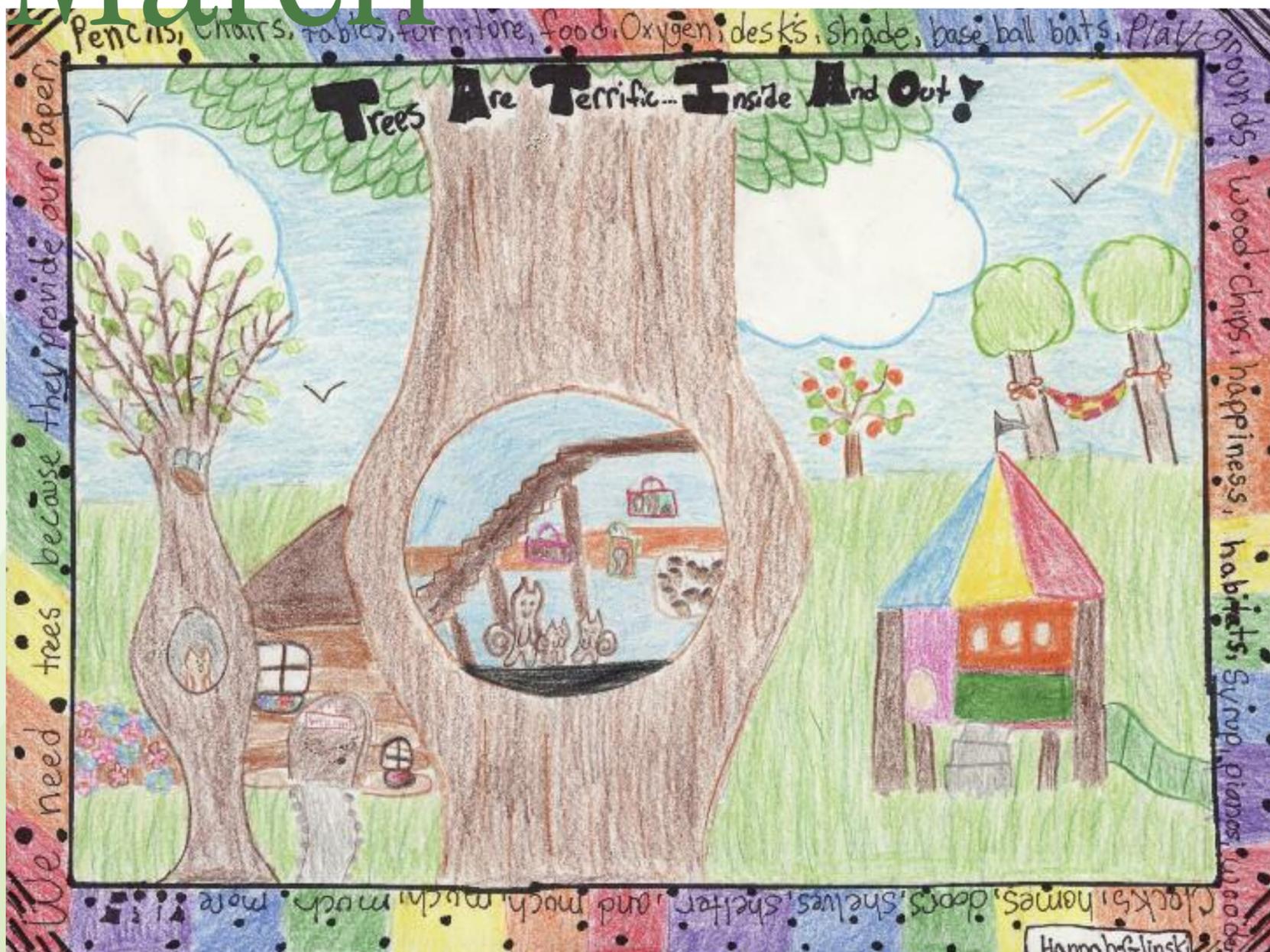
Wolves stay in packs. A pack is a group of wolves. In packs they hunt together and live together. In each pack there is a leader. The leader is stronger than the other wolves. The leader is in charge. Some wolves don't live in packs but most of them do. In packs there is about fourteen or less.

These are all the reasons why wolves and pups are my favorite forest animals.

Northern Lights Elementary, Superior
Teacher: Lori Foley
Honorable Mention



March



Hannah Glinski • Third Place
St. Monica School, Whitefish Bay
Teacher: Donna Wulz

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Read Across America Day – This reading celebration takes place on the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss, who inspired a lifelong love of learning with his writings.	3	4 Wood frogs begin calling and breeding on the first day and night over 50 degrees. Listen for their quiet, quacking-type call.	5	6 Statewide 4th Grade Writing Contest entries due. This year's theme: My Favorite Tree. Aldo Leopold Weekend (Mar 6-Mar 8)	7 Our State Bird, the American Robin, begins making its way back to Wisconsin.
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins. Set clocks ahead one hour. Time to change the batteries in your smoke detector!	9 Ducks, geese, sandhill cranes, and bald eagles return to Wisconsin. How do birds navigate their way back in the spring?	10	11 Full (Worm) Moon	12 It's true! It takes 35 to 40 gallons of maple sap to make one gallon of syrup.	13	14 Fourth Grade Arbor Day Free Tree Application due today!
15 Check birdhouses for damage and clean them before spring birds arrive.	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Chipmunks emerge from hibernation. Keep an eye out for middens, or piles of pine cone shreds and other food remains that chipmunks make when they eat.	20 Spring has sprung! Have you noticed any birds singing outside your window? Use an identification guide to learn more about them.	21
22	23 Does your school have a school forest? Spring is a great time to take a visit!	24	25	26 Pasque flowers bloom.	27 Time to take a nature hike. Look for the American woodcock as it performs its spring mating ritual. The birds make a "peenting" noise as they spiral up into the air nearly 200 feet!	28
29 Fun Forestry Fact: Did you know a cord of wood is a stack of logs four feet tall, four feet deep, and eight feet long?	30 First pencil with eraser patented (1858).	31 Think about March weather. Did it "come in like a lion and go out like a lamb?"	Think those old, dead trees have no use to the forest? Not so! Barred owls use these trees, called snags, for their homes.			

FEBRUARY 09
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APRIL 09
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19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30



courtesy of Dan Neufeld

My Favorite Forest Animal

By Skyler Richard Fisher

Whoooo is my favorite animal? Look 80 feet above, and you may see it there. Its favorite home is the inside of old dead trees.

It hunts from dusk to dawn, swooping down and the mouse is gone, squeezing its prey with long sharp talons. If the prey is small enough, it is eaten in one gulp, bones and all. The sharp beak works like a knife to tear the meat apart.

Its eyes are very big; they are his most powerful weapons. They bring in light to see at night.

Keep alert in February and March for this creature because it makes all kinds of noises to impress a mate. Listen for a hoot that sounds like someone's saying, "Who-cooks-for-you, who-cooks-for-you-all?" It also makes a cat-like scream or a barking sound.

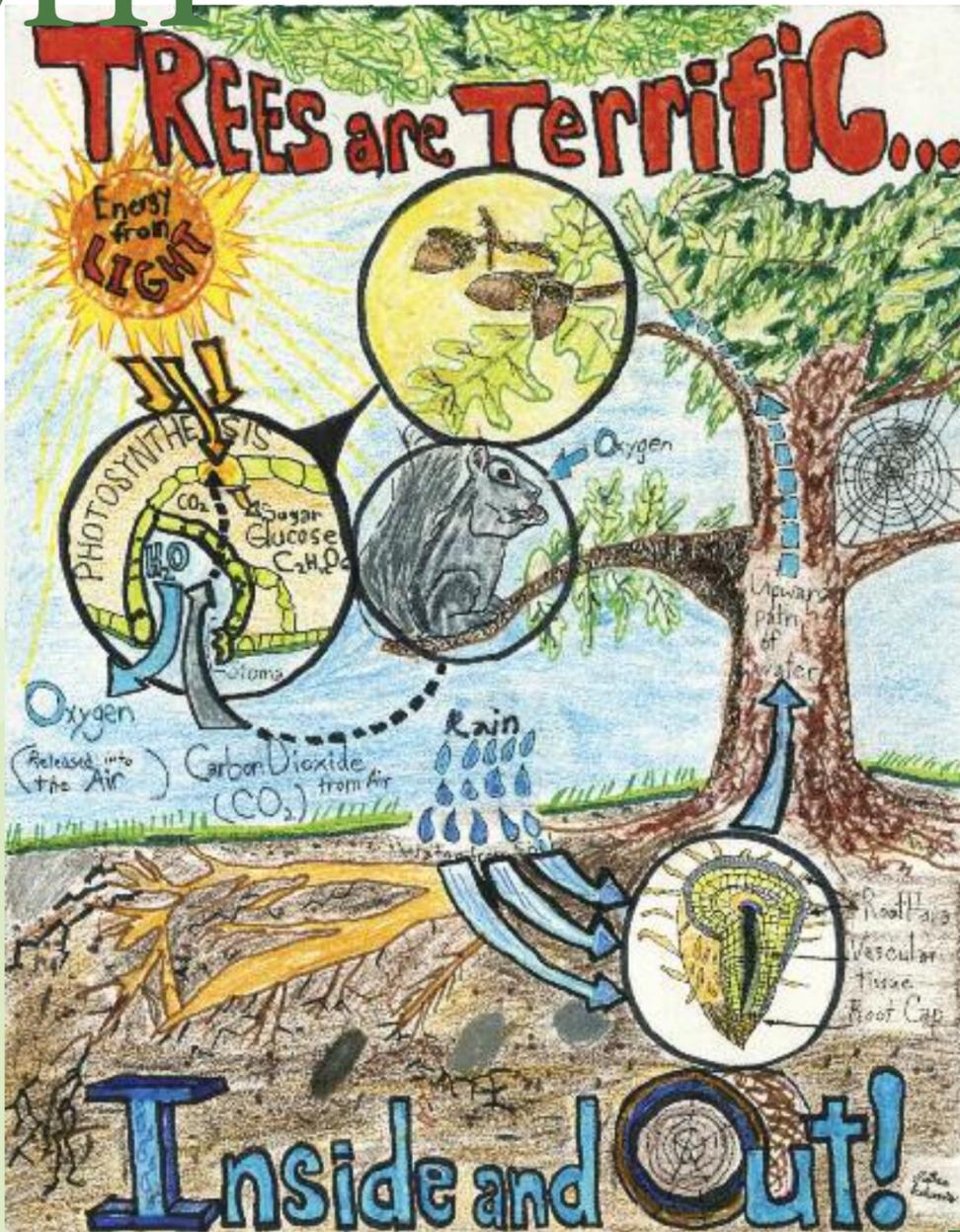
Its feathers have large horizontal bars on the tail and around the neck and large vertical streaking bars on the body. That is how it got its name!

Do you know my forest animal? It's the barred owl, and it happens to be my favorite forest animal.

Hillsboro Elementary School, Hillsboro
Teacher: Jenny Shore
Third Place



April



Celebrate Arbor Day – April 24, 2009

Arbor Day is a nationally-celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care. This historic holiday has been celebrated in Wisconsin since 1883!

Here are some ideas for celebrating Arbor Day:

- Plant a tree!
- Take a nature walk and practice identifying trees using an ID guide.
- Organize a local community or school celebration.
- Make up a play about trees and present it to your class.
- Read a story or poem about trees, or write your own!



Tree planting at Drummond Elementary
Courtesy of J. Bishop

Nathan Schwartz • First Place
Homeschool, West Bend
Teacher: Laura Schwartz

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MARCH 09 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	MAY 09 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		1 April Fool's Day	2 Listen for a spring melody as Chorus frogs and Spring peepers begin calling. Chorus frogs make a creaking noise and Spring peepers make a high, repeating "peep".	3 Bats begin their spring arrival. Can you list the seven species of bat found in Wisconsin?	4
5	6 Can you identify four trees that are budding in your neighborhood?	7 Bald eagles begin nesting. On average, a nest may be 4 feet in diameter and 3 feet deep. That's as big as the beds we sleep in!	8	9 Full (Pink) Moon Passover begins at sundown.	10 Good Friday Only 14 days until Arbor Day! Time to start planning!	11 Coyote pups born.
12 Easter National Environmental Education Week (Apr 12-Apr 18)	13	14	15 Painted turtles emerging. Look for them in marshes, ponds, and shallow lake areas. Black bears leave dens.	16 Why is it important to plant trees?	17	18 White-tailed bucks begin growing antlers. Prairie smoke blooms.
19 Earth Week, Forest Appreciation Week, and Wildfire Prevention Week (Apr 19-Apr 25)	20	21 John Muir born (1838)	22 Earth Day J. Sterling Morton born (1832)	23 Fun Forestry Fact: Urban forests help reduce air pollution and improve our health and well-being. Eighty percent of Wisconsin's residents live in urban forest areas!	24 Arbor Day Plant, nurture, and celebrate trees.	25
26 Stewardship Week (Apr 26-May 3) Theme: DIG IT! The Secrets of Soil	27 What is a tree canopy?	28 Listen for grouse drumming. American toads begin to sing along shallow waters.	29 Check your woodlands for spring flowers.	30 GreenWorks! Grants due for the spring funding cycle.		

My Favorite Forest Animal

By Micaela Jobke

My fur can be white, gray or black,
and we do not travel in a pack.
We do not hibernate when it's chilly,
sit and watch us, you'll think we're silly.
We can climb a tree in the blink of an eye,
do not try to catch me I'm really quite shy.
My tail is bushy and my hands are so cute,
we often snack on nuts and fruit.
We make a nest in the hole of a tree,
it's great to be so wild and free.
We can't come in your house to be your pet,
we look like a drowned rat when we're wet.
We come in many colors and sizes,
don't be shocked if we show you some surprises.
We like to come out during the day,
we gather our food, run and play.
We gather and store our food in the fall,
watch us walk on electric wires up tall.
You can't really tell if I'm a boy or girl,
my favorite forest animal is the squirrel.

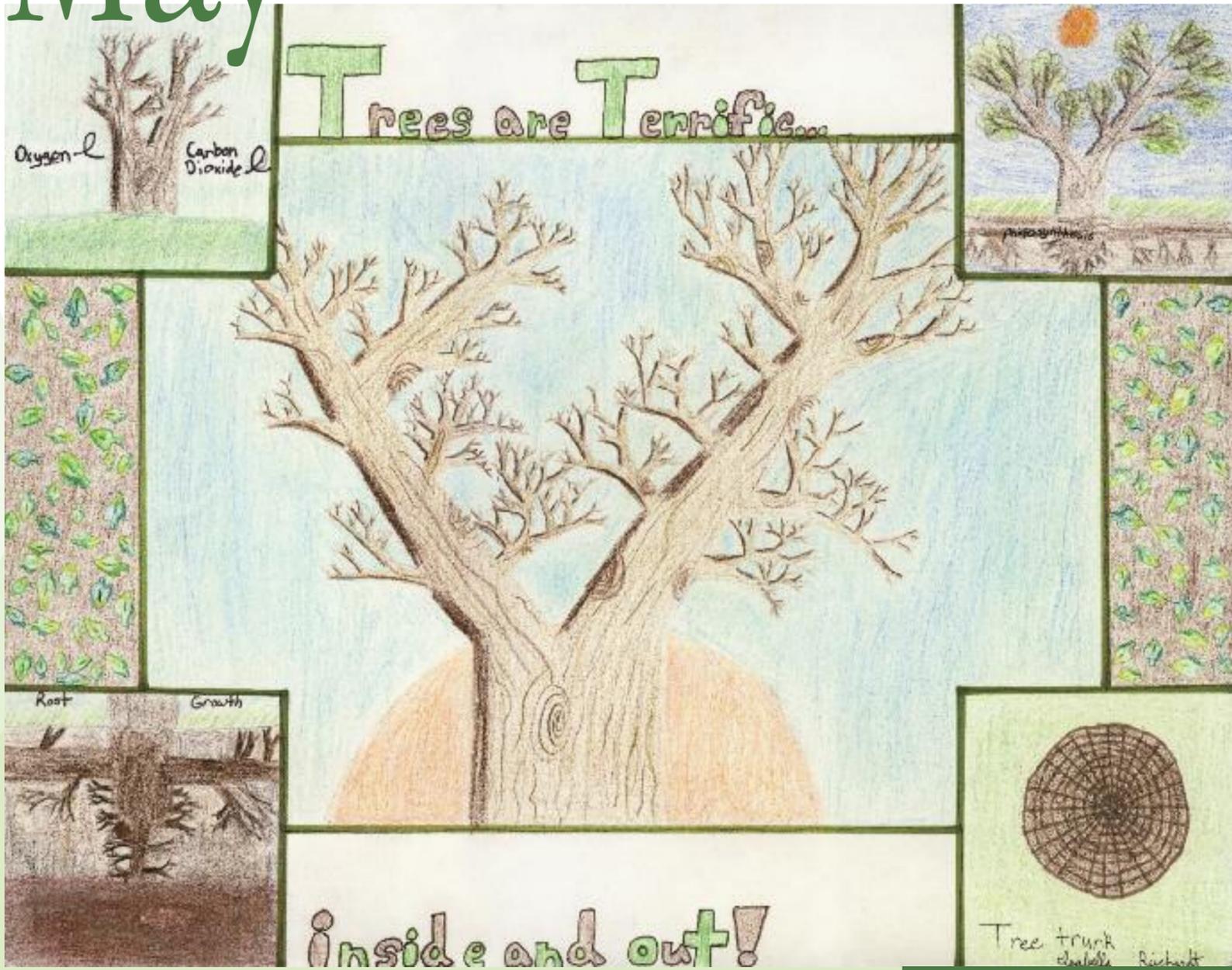
St. Martin Lutheran School, Clintonville
Teacher: Ms. Teresa Buelow
First Place

In fall after the leaves have dropped from trees, look for gray squirrel nests, or *drays*. They look like a ball of leaves among the tree's branches.

courtesy of Bob Queen



May



Isabella Reichardt • Second Place
Webster Elementary, Watertown
Teacher: Mrs. Noelle Burns

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
APRIL 09 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	JUNE 09 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30				1 Eastern gray treefrogs and Cope's gray treefrogs begin calling. Both make trilling noises. Large trillium blooms.	2
3 A male turkey is called a tom. Listen for them as they start gobbling.	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6 National Teacher's Day	7	8	9 Full (Flower) Moon International Migratory Bird Day – Find out which birds nest near your home and learn where they migrate to and from each year.
10 Mother's Day	11	12 Lilacs, columbine, shooting star, and Jack-in-the-pulpit blooming.	13 What makes a good tree from a woodpecker's point of view?	14	15 International Day of Families – Spend time together on a hike through your family's favorite forest!	16 Look for morel mushrooms. They are highly coveted for their great taste.
17 It's true! A seven inch bullfrog can jump as far as five feet.	18	19	20 Fun Forestry Fact: Did you know that leaves are food making machines? Through photosynthesis they turn water, carbon dioxide and sunlight into sugar for the tree to use.	21 Discover the outdoors! Learn to fish.	22 Monarch butterflies arriving. The monarch is the only northern butterfly that migrates north and south each year.	23
24 Put up hummingbird feeders – 1 part sugar to 4 parts water. Put out grape jelly and orange halves for orioles.	25 Memorial Day	26	27 Rachel Carson born (1907)	28 Green frogs and Blanchard's cricket frogs calling. The green frog's call sounds like the twang of a banjo string, while the Blanchard's cricket frog makes a noise like pebbles crunching.	29 Statehood Day Wisconsin is 161 years old.	30

31 Even though male black bears can weigh 350 pounds, they are still able to climb a tree as fast as a human can run on flat ground!



courtesy of Al Cornell

Wild Black Bear

By Josie A. Bacon

If I were a bear,
a black bear I'd be.
I'd wander around the forest
tall trees surrounding me.

I'd comb the woods
searching for grub.
I'd find some berries
for me and my cub.

Then I'd find
a nice place to rest.
And snuggle down
like a bird in a nest.

I'm not a bear,
I'm just a child,
But if I were,
That would be wild.

MHLT School, Minocqua
Teacher: Sam Gildseth and Judy DiMattina
Second Place



June



June is Invasive Species Awareness Month – Be Aware of Invasive Plants This Summer!

An invasive plant is a bully plant. They grow fast and produce many seeds. They crowd out plants that belong in Wisconsin.

Three of the most harmful invasive plants in Wisconsin:



Garlic mustard—an herb in the mustard family that gets its name from the garlic odor given off when its leaves are crushed



Common buckthorn—a shrub or small tree that has tiny thorns at the tips of its branches



Bush honeysuckle—a shrub that was planted in Wisconsin gardens for its sweet-smelling flowers and bright berries

Here are some things that you can do to help stop the spread of invasive species:

- Brush any dirt or seeds off of your shoes and clothing after visiting an area with invasive species.
- Volunteer to pull or cut down invasive plants in a local park or your own yard.
- Plant a native tree or plant that will provide shelter or food for wildlife.

Bernadette Hawley • Honorable Mention
New Glarus Elementary, New Glarus
Teacher: Mrs. Caskey & Mrs. Burdette

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Bullfrogs begin calling. Listen for their deep bass notes sounding like "jug-o rum".	2	3	4	5 World Environment Day	6 Something's fishy here... It's Free Fishing Weekend! It's National Trails Day. Go take a hike!
7 Full (Strawberry) Moon State Parks open house day	8	9 Indian paintbrush in bloom. It looks like a brush dipped in red paint.	10 Peak time for deer fawn births.	11	12 What is Wisconsin's State Flower? Look for them in bloom in wet woodland and meadow areas or along roadsides.	13
14 Flag Day	15	16 Strawberry season is here. Head out to a berry patch and pick a sweet treat!	17 Sandhill crane chicks learn to fly.	18	19 Milkweed blooms. Did you know that the fluffy milkweed seeds were used by Native Americans to insulate their moccasins?	20
21 Father's Day Summer Solstice – Get outside and enjoy the longest day of the year!	22	23 The first Louisville Slugger was made from white ash (1884). Today both ash and maple are used for wooden baseball bats.	24	25	26	27 Great American Backyard Campout Day Enjoy a night of stargazing, nature sounds and s'mores – right in your backyard!
28 Watch for fireflies as they light up the night. There are over 136 different species of firefly and each one has its own distinct light pattern!	29	30	MAY 09 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	JULY 09 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		

Deer fawns are reddish in color with small white spots across their back. This coloring helps them blend into the forest and stay safe among the trees.



courtesy of Al Cornell

Happy Tails

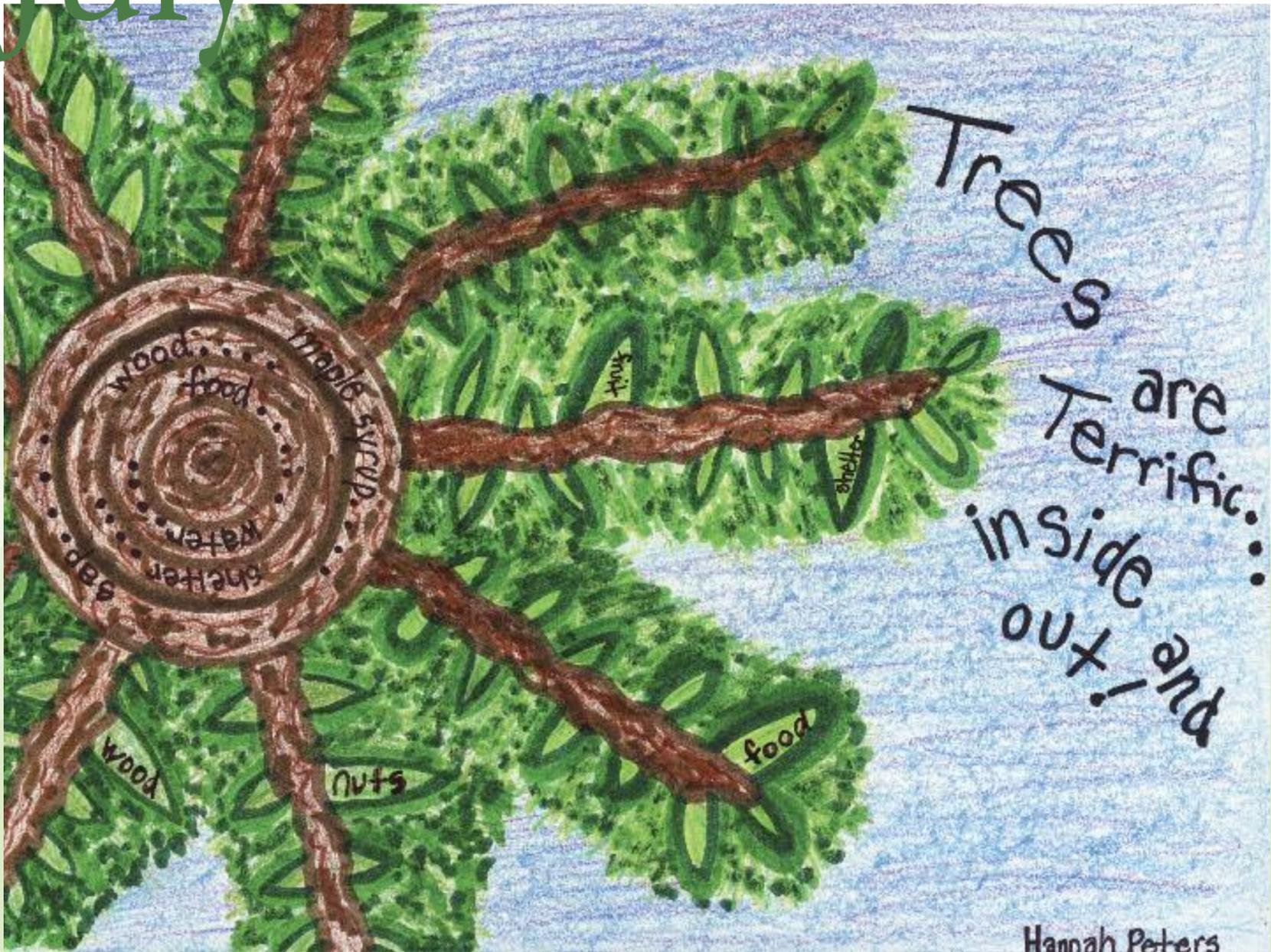
By Mikayla Galloway

It was a cool crisp morning in early April, as I sat outside to look for something to draw. It was around 8:00 a.m. when I saw the most beautiful White-tailed Deer. She appeared to be alone, when suddenly another deer walked gracefully from the thick woods. I started to sketch them using the emerald green woods as the backdrop. As I finished, the mother deer pranced back into the woods leaving the fawn behind. I started to think that maybe the fawn with the snow white spots was motherless and possibly fatherless. It was unbearable to think of her being all by herself. I watched quietly as she looked from side to side. I was anxious to see what she was looking for in the open meadow. I stepped closer and she walked slowly, as if to say follow me. The clouds started to blanket the sky as the fawn crept back into the now darkened woods. Once I made it through the thick brush, the clouds began to part. As I looked closer, the fawn was caring for two tiny White-tailed Deer about half her size. I then realized, she was not alone, she was a **MOTHER!**

Summit School, Oconomowoc
Teacher: Ann-Marie Dart
Honorable Mention



July



Hannah Peters • Honorable Mention
Friess Lake School, Hubertus
Teacher: Jeanne Azoff

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JUNE 09 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	AUGUST 09 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		1 Canada Day	2	3	4 Independence Day
5 Raspberry season has begun, and blueberries aren't far behind. Watch for black bears looking for a snack near berry patches!	6	7 Full (Buck) Moon	8 Can you name four trees native to Wisconsin?	9	10 Butterfly weed in bloom.	11 Painted turtles begin to hatch.
12	13 Yellow sweet clover blooms. When the leaves are crushed they smell like freshly-mowed hay.	14 Look for monarch caterpillars on milkweed foliage. They are sometimes called the "milkweed butterfly" because monarch larvae eat the plant for nourishment.	15	16	17 Have a picnic in the shade of your favorite tree.	18 Loons can be seen and heard on northern lakes.
19	20 Humans land on the moon (1969).	21 Trees are tasty treats! Ice cream uses a part of the tree called cellulose to make it thick, smooth and creamy.	22 Total Solar Eclipse Wild Parsnip in bloom – beware!	23	24 It's true! Only male crickets chirp.	25
26 Walking sticks are abundant . . . if you can spot them! Their shape and color help to camouflage them so they look like part of a plant.	27	28 Make it a rule to keep lawn mowers and bikes away from trees.	29 Deer antlers are reaching their peak size.	30	31	

Flight of the Mammal

By Eva Anderson

Small and shiny, I'm the only mammal that flies,
And people are one thing I highly despise.
Caves, cracks, or under a jeep,
All these are safe places I like to sleep.

Can you guess what I am?
No, I'm not a baked yam.
Bugs and fruit are foods I eat,
And I'm the Count's friend on Sesame Street.

I'm completely blind,
So food is hard to find.
I see with sonar instead of my eyes,
And some people take that as quite a surprise.

If a sound comes in faster in one ear,
It says to my brain a phrase like, "Steer Clear!"
Stay away from the sharp-clawed cat,
And finally, I'll say what I am, I'm a bat.

Fox Prairie Elementary, Stoughton
Teacher: Cassie Perkins
Honorable Mention

Some bats roost in tree cavities and come out after dark to look for insects. They can catch one insect every eight seconds, sometimes eating thousands in a single night!



courtesy of Dan Heineke



August



Wisconsin State Fair: August 6-16, 2009

Each year over 850,000 people come to the State Fair to enjoy the best 11 days of summer. There are lots of things to explore, especially at the Department of Natural Resources Park.

Discover forests at DNR's nature park:

- Find out how to identify trees that grow in Wisconsin.
- Learn about the variety of products that come from trees and how we use them every day.
- Attend a class at Smokey's Schoolhouse and learn about wildfire prevention.
- Meet a forester and ask them about their job!



courtesy of B. Queen

Tom Negaard • Honorable Mention
McKinley Center, Stevens Point
Teacher: Susan Zook

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JULY 09 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	SEPTEMBER 09 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					1
2 National Friendship Day – Take your best friend on a picnic under your favorite tree!	3 Fun Forestry Fact: Did you know that forests provide homes for bears, fox, snakes, barred owls and Luna moths?	4	5 Day lilies bloom.	6 Full (Sturgeon) Moon Wisconsin's State Fair begins today! (Aug 6-Aug 16)	7 Young loons learn to fly. A loon has to run across the water for up to ¼ mile while flapping its wings in order to get enough lift to take off!	8
9 Smokey Bear is 65 years old. Smokey knows unattended campfires spell disaster.	10 Yellow jackets or white faced hornets make paper-like nests.	11	12 The movie <i>Wizard of Oz</i> premieres in Oconomowoc (1939). Film strip material contains the tree product cellulose. Perseids Meteor Shower	13 It's true! A hummingbird feeds every 10 minutes, visiting as many as 1,000 flowers daily.	14 Time to get ready for school! Which school supplies come from trees or forest products?	15
16	17 Wild rice ripens.	18	19 Watch for migrating nighthawks.	20	21	22
23	24 Turtle eggs are beginning to hatch.	25	26 Spider webs glisten like diamonds in the early morning sunshine. There are over 1,100 species of spider in Wisconsin!	27	28	29 Monarch butterflies begin their long migration to Mexico.
30	31	Raccoons often make their dens in hollow trees that they share with others. In one tree you may find up to 24 raccoons!				

My Favorite Forest Animal

By Jared Straka

I think the raccoon is a really cool animal. It is cool because of the way it uses its hands, and the way its face and tail look, but also because of how smart it is.

The raccoon's hands are very special because of the way they can be used. Raccoons can use their hands to grasp objects such as food so they can wash it in the river. They can also use their hands to climb a tree.

The raccoon's face looks like a burglar's mask and makes it look like a criminal. Its tail also looks different because it has 5 to 7 black rings.

Since the raccoon is so smart it is able to avoid enemies. It is able to sneak up on its prey. Raccoons are also smart enough to know how to raid barns or cornfields.

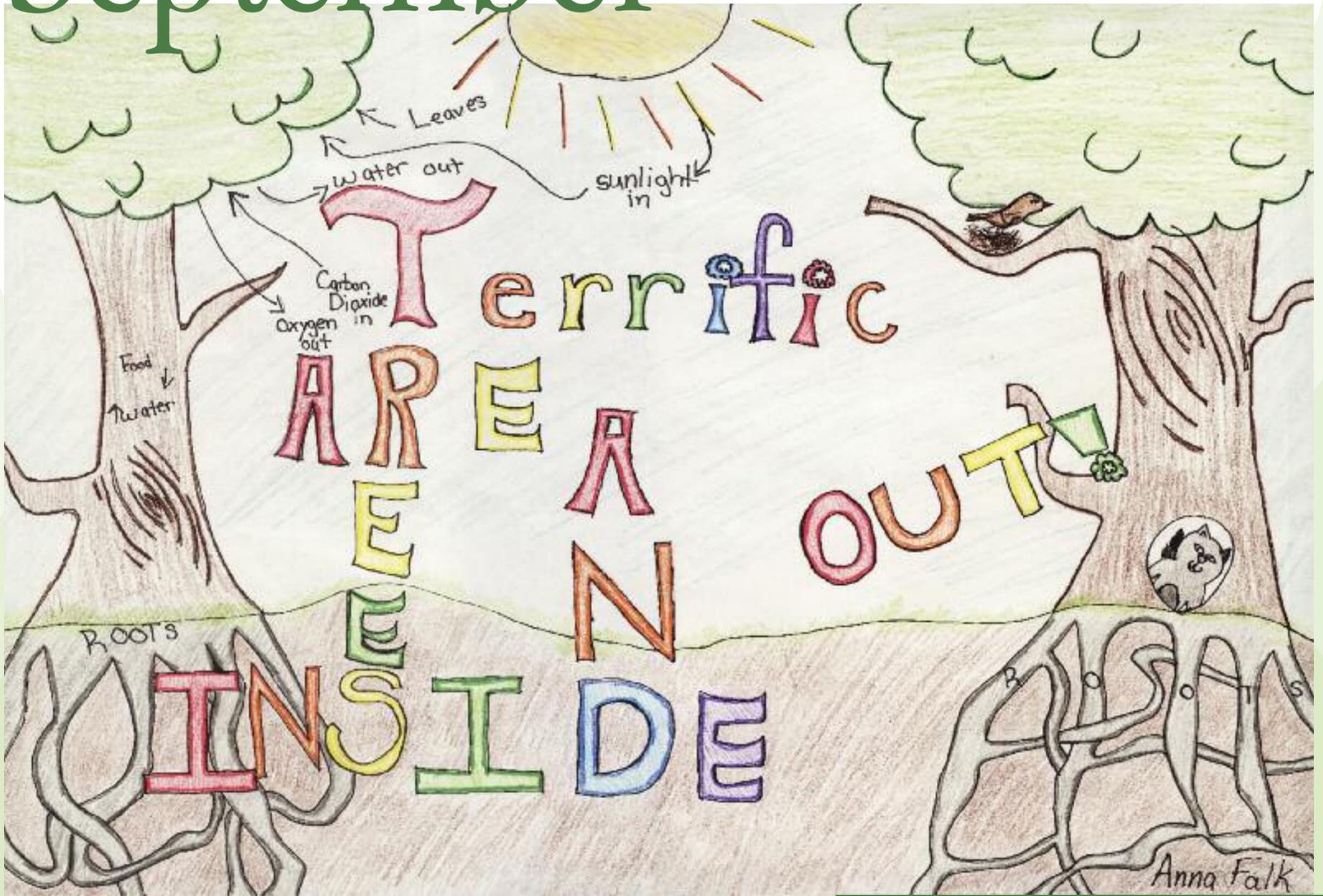
If you still don't think raccoons are great, come down to my house and I'll show you a raccoon. We could watch him wash his food, we'd look for the burglar's mask and the 5 to 7 black rings on his tail. You'd see how smart he is. Then I know you would love raccoons.

Winskill Elementary, Lancaster
Teacher: Mrs. Joan Driscoll
Honorable Mention



courtesy of Bob Queen

September



Anna Falk • Honorable Mention
Clay Lambertson Elementary School, Berlin
Teacher: Gary Wolff & Kristin Henke

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AUGUST 09 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	OCTOBER 09 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2 Ramadan begins	3	4 Full (Harvest) Moon	5 Deer fawns lose their spots.
6 Read a Book Day – Why not read a book about trees?	7 Labor Day Despite the ruby throated hummingbird's tiny size, it migrates more than 1,850 miles to spend the winter in Central America.	8	9	10	11 Patriot Day	12 Have the acorns fallen yet?
13 Grandparents Day	14 Woodsy Owl is 38 years old. Woodsy reminds us to "Lend a hand... Care for the land."	15	16 Learn to identify trees in your neighborhood. How do they change as summer moves into fall?	17 Time to visit a school forest!	18	19 Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown. Migrating Canada geese begin to arrive. Look for their flying V-formation and listen for lots of honking!
20 Why do leaves change colors?	21	22 Autumnal Equinox – This is the first day of fall and there will be equal amounts of day and night.	23 Get set for the hunting season. Take a hunter education course.	24 Whooping cranes begin migrating south. Why do some animals migrate each year?	25	26 National Public Lands Day Johnny Appleseed born (1774). He planted apple trees across much of the U.S. Did you know that fall is a great time to plant trees?
27 Fall season is ripe with opportunity for the best apples in Wisconsin! Find an orchard near your home and try some new homemade recipes.	28 Yom Kippur begins at sundown.	29	30 Have the leaves in your neighborhood changed colors yet?			

Blue-spotted salamanders are amphibians, like frogs and toads. See if you can "spot" one in the cool, moist areas under rotting logs in spring or fall.

BEARS ARE BEST

By Matthias Gouin

My favorite animal by far is a bear,
And now I'll tell you why,
They come in many colors of hair,
Like brown, black or white.

They lumber through the forest,
On two feet or four,
Berries are what they like best,
Though they can eat much more.

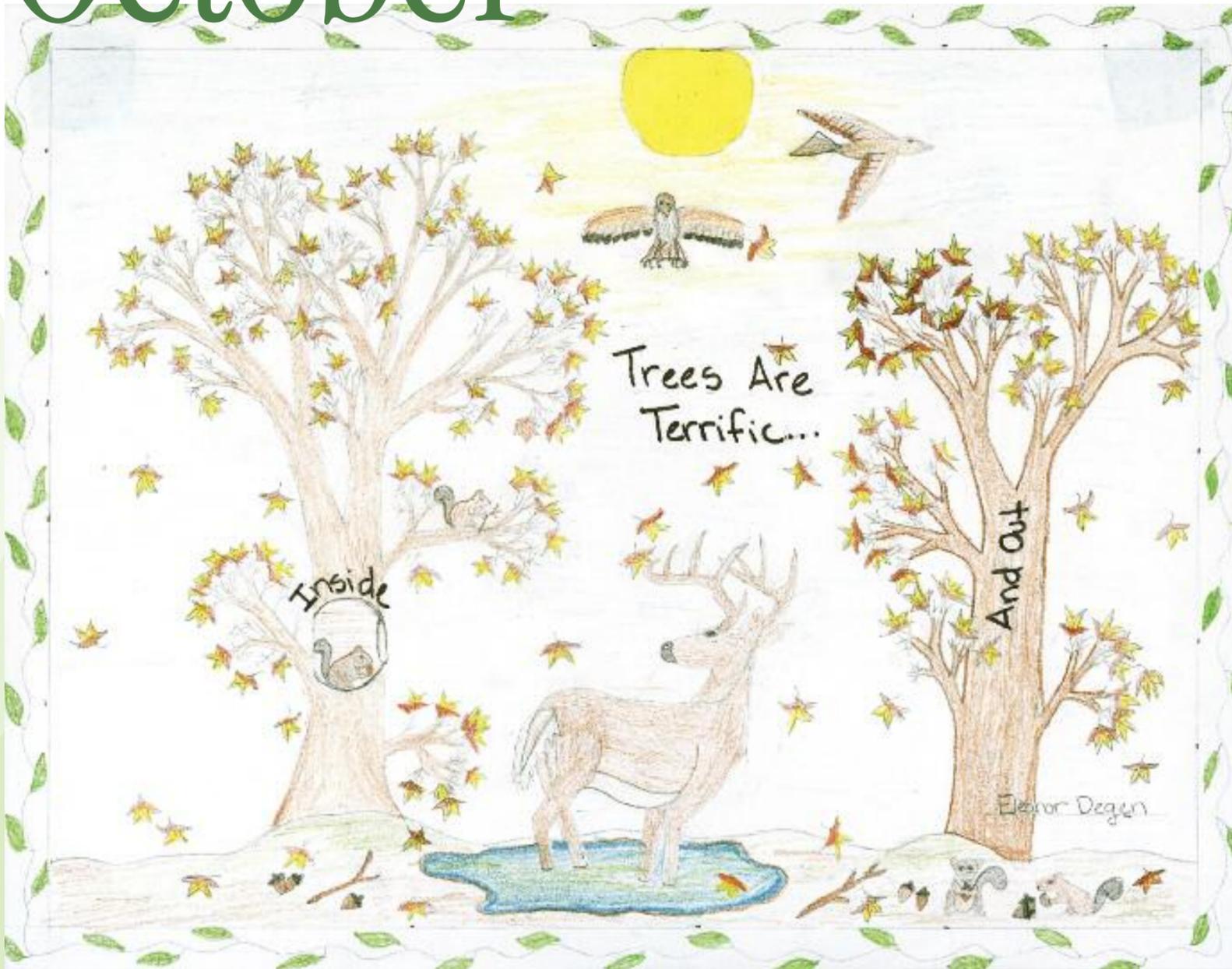
Bears are big but they can run,
And climbing is no problem,
Swimming to them is really fun,
And can go well over a mile.

Hibernate is what they do when the days turn cool,
Sleeping up to seven months,
While I have to be in school.

Our Lady of Peace Intermediate, Marshfield
Teacher: Mrs. Mary Kastern
Honorable Mention



October



Eleanor Degen • Honorable Mention
Shorewood Elementary School, Madison
Teacher: Jody Lee-Lampe

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 09 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	NOVEMBER 09 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30			1	2 Discover the outdoors! Learn to use a compass and read maps.	3
4 Full (Hunter's) Moon National Fire Prevention Week (Oct 4-Oct 10)	5 Get ready for the first frost . . . it's coming soon!	6	7 What colors of leaves can you observe today?	8 Anniversary of the Peshtigo Fire (1871). This was the worst recorded forest fire in North American history.	9	10
11	12 Columbus Day	13	14 Star Spangled Banner written (1814). Frogs begin to burrow into mud for the winter.	15 Pumpkins ready for pies and jack-o-lanterns.	16	17 Watch for woolly bear caterpillars. Some people think these caterpillars can predict winter weather based on the size of their stripes!
18 National Forest Products Week (Oct 18-Oct 24) Name 10 different forest products that you use every day.	19	20 National Fruit Day - Name the fruits you like to eat that come from trees.	21 White-tailed deer begin rut. They'll continue rubbing and scraping trees through November.	22	23	24 United Nations Day
25	26	27	28	29 Tamaracks turn golden. The tamarack is the only conifer in Wisconsin which has needles that change color and fall from the tree in autumn.	30 Black bears begin to den.	31 Halloween GreenWorks! Grants due for the fall funding cycle.

Wisconsin Forest Animal

By Travis Hammerstad

Its' tail so soft and bushy,
 Its' horns so fierce and such a beauty to see,
 Its' eyes so sharp,
 Its' legs so strong,
 Its' fur so soft,
 Its' hoofs so tough,
 It runs so swift.
 These are some reasons why my
 favorite forest animal is a deer!

Janet Berry Elementary, Appleton
 Teacher: Geri Faustich
 Honorable Mention

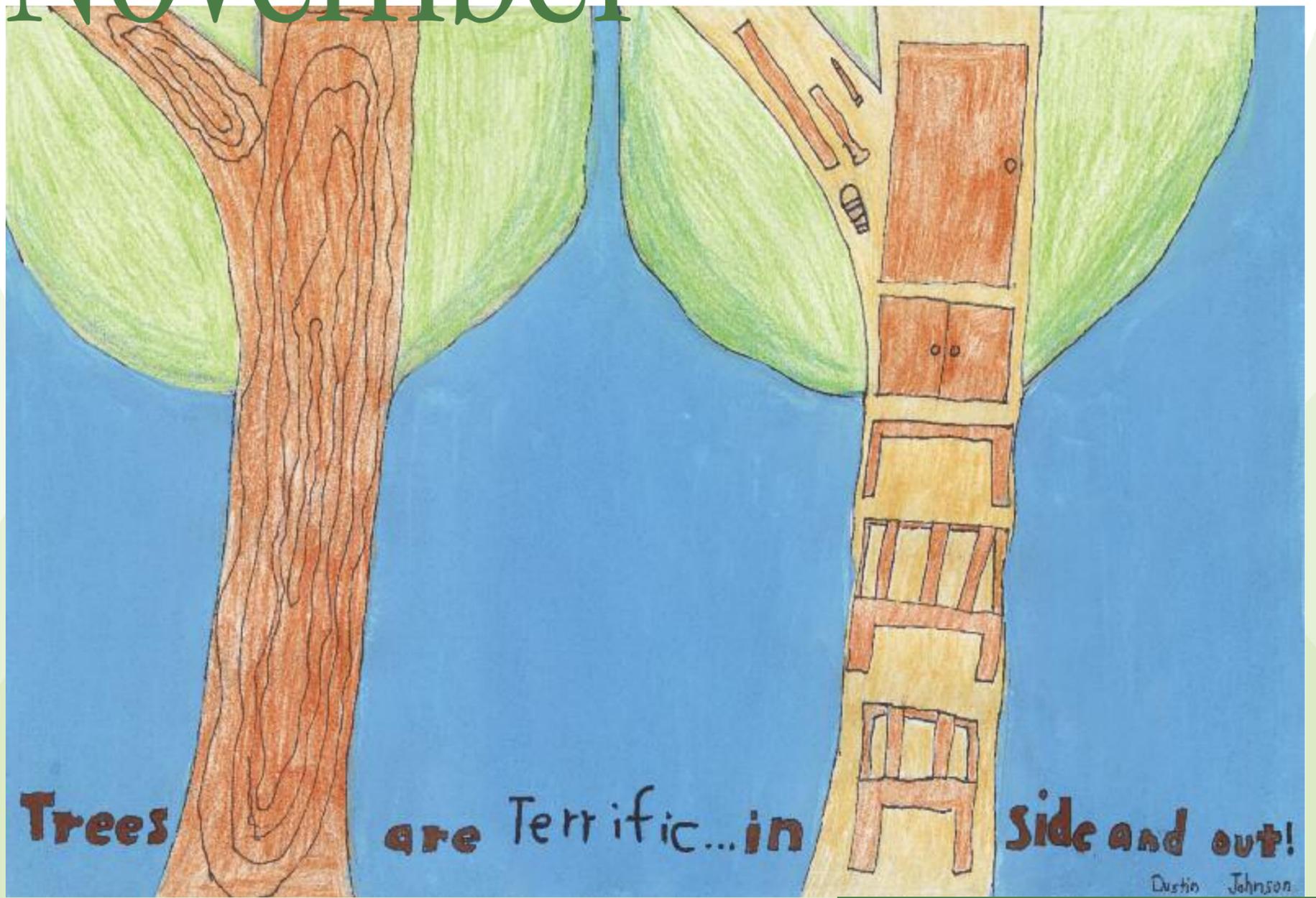
Though robins migrate in the fall, they return to Wisconsin in April. Because of this early arrival, they are sometimes thought of as the first sign of spring.



courtesy of Jarrod Ethe



November



Dustin Johnson • Honorable Mention
Thorp Public Elementary School, Thorp
Teacher: Cathy Guleynski

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends. Set your clocks back one hour.	2 Full (Beaver) Moon	3 Election Day	4	5 Why do white-tailed deer need the forest?	6	7 Leave brush piles for wildlife. They make great winter dens!
8 Peak mallard migration.	9	10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13 Go on a nest hunt. They're easy to spot in bare trees.	14
15 America Recycles Day – Remember to recycle all the paper that comes from trees!	16 Fun Forestry Fact: Did you know that rotting logs and leaves eventually turn into soil and put nutrients back into the ground for other plants to use as they grow?	17	18 Look for flocks of migrating swans.	19	20	21 Opening weekend – gun deer season
22	23	24 Raccoons moving into winter quarters. They increase their weight by 120 percent to survive the winter!	25	26 Thanksgiving Day – Do any of the foods from your feast come from the forest?	27	28
29	30 Look for snowy owls. They use their keen hearing to listen for prey that may be hiding under the snow.	OCTOBER 09 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	DECEMBER 09 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31			

In winter chipmunks burrow underground to stay warm. These burrows may be very elaborate, with separate chambers for a pantry, bathroom, and bedroom!

Chipmunks

By Abigail Klonsinski

His cheeks are full of nuts as he runs to his home. Snowflakes are falling as he scurries up his tree; he is getting ready for winter. While he is stuffing his nuts in a tree the ground is being covered with snow. The air is frosty as he looks for food. When he enters his house for the last time until spring, he sees the pond next to his home is frosted over with ice. Now he knows winter is really here. As he settles down on his bed made of dry leaves he thinks of what next spring will bring.

Sevastopol Elementary, Sturgeon Bay
Teacher: Brian O'Handley
Honorable Mention



courtesy of Al Cornell

December



Landis Phillips • Honorable Mention
Traver School, Lake Geneva
Teacher: Mark McGinn

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 09 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	JANUARY 10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 Keep bird baths ice free.	2 Full (Cold) Moon	3	4 Name two animals that hibernate.	5
6	7 Use three words that describe the weather today.	8	9	10 Flying squirrels at suet feeders during the night. They can glide anywhere from a few feet to 150 feet while looking for food.	11 Hanukkah begins at sundown.	12
13 It's true! Little black sunflower seeds attract the greatest number of perch-feeding birds.	14	15 Look for otter slides along creeks and waterways.	16	17 If there is snow, look for snow fleas (springtails) around the base of tree trunks.	18 Time to build a snowman!	19 Have the lakes frozen yet?
20	21 Winter Solstice – This marks the shortest day of the year and the first day of winter.	22 Snowflakes can be huge. In 1887 at Fort Keough, Montana, some of the snowflakes that fell measured 15 inches in diameter. That's bigger than a dinner plate!	23 Fun Forestry Fact: The balsam fir is a popular Christmas tree. Evergreen trees inspired the Yuletide song, "O Tannenbaum" (O Christmas Tree).	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa begins
27	28 Endangered Species Act Passed (1973). Name one endangered species that lives in Wisconsin's forests.	29 White-tailed deer bucks begin to shed their antlers.	30	31 New Year's Eve Once in a blue moon . . . It's the second full moon of December, also called a Blue Moon.		

Forests are important to white-tailed deer because they provide shelter and food. Their special stomachs allow them to digest the twigs and bark from willow, oak, birch, and maple trees.

MY FAVORITE FOREST ANIMAL

By Morgan Birkenholz

My favorite forest animal, who is a good friend,
is the great White-tailed Deer.

I love the way it looks at me every time I'm near.

The deer I see lives in my untamed woods.

He has no fear to look me in the eyes.

In my fields it grazes on grasses while listening for a
fierce enemy close by.

I love the way the deer lives so free as if in a dream.

The way it leaps so high,

like a soaring bird in the sky.

The graceful way the deer walks around,

reminds me of a ballerina spinning

'round and 'round.

The caretaker of my forest,

from the smallest bambi,

to the biggest antlered buck,

I truly love the Whitetail.

School District of Gilman, Gilman
Teacher: Mrs. Stendel
Honorable Mention



courtesy of Bob Queen

Get involved with LEAF (Learning, Experiences & Activities in Forestry): www.leafprogram.org