

ANSS

The American Nature Study Society Newsletter



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From the President . . .

Several members of the American Nature Study Society got together at the national Association of Interpretation National Workshop in Cleveland, Ohio to discuss issues and opportunities for our organization and the nature study movement. Discussions focused on membership services and communications. Board member Steve Melcher is working with America On-Line, a computer service, to establish a "room" for ANSS members to communicate via the information highway in early 1995. For more information about this project, please contact Steve at 716-256-3928.

Plans are being made for the next Board Meeting and membership gathering to take place at the National Science Teachers Association Conference in Philadelphia, PA, March 23 - 26, 1995. If you are interested in attending the NSTA meeting please contact Jack Padalino at 717-828-2319, and for attending related ANSS events, please contact me at 914-967-5150.

Looking ahead to next fall, ANSS is co-sponsor of the New York Outdoor Education Association's Annual Conference in Waterloo, NY, October 6 - 8, 1995. ANSS is working on a nature study program track for the Conference. If you are interested in presenting a workshop or would like more information about the event, please contact me at 914-967-5150.

Thanks in great part to the efforts of ANSS board member and journal editor, Laurence Pringle, the next issue of *Nature Study* with the theme of animals is nearing completion. The following issue is devoted to the topic of wetlands. Anyone with articles, tips, comments and/or suggestions for our journal needs to address them to Helen Ross Russell at 44 College Drive, Jersey City, NJ 07305, or Betty McKnight at 9759 Savercool Rd., Trumansburg, NY 14886.

I would like to congratulate the following members for their election or re-election as officers and board members of ANSS. Ralph Lutts assumes the office of President-Elect and John Gustafson returns to his post as Treasurer for one more term. In addition to the class of 1996, Frank Knight, Betty McKnight, Phyllis Marcuccio, Laurence Pringle and John Serrao were re-elected to serve as board members. Former board member, Delmar Janke has returned to the board and Margaret Barker, from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology joins the board for her first term.

I look forward to working with the board and membership during my final year as president and during my term as past president.

All the best for the New Year,
Tracy Kay, President

My Own Outdoor Castle

1994 Winning Poem Robert Frost Poetry Contest

In the woods
The trees are my castle
The stump is my throne
The birds are my music
And the forest is my own

The deer are my maids
The flowers are my foods
The birds swoop overhead
And I'm in the mood

The bark is my plate
The rocks are my cups
The flowers smell great
Especially
The butter cups

The clovers are my charms
The ferns are my dress
The stream is my pool
And I feel the best

The birch bark is my paper
The hill is my room
The bear is my king
And the willow is my broom

It's getting late
although I'm a queen and grand
I have to go home
With a clover in my hand

Melanie McNally
4th grade, Moore Elementary, Candia, NH

For next year's contest information contact:
Allison McLean, Kristy Johnson
The Robert Frost Youth Poet Program,
NH Division of Parks & Recreation.
PO Box 1856, Concord, NH 03302-1856

Animals Alive!:

An Ecological Guide to Animal Activities

by Dennis Holley, Illustrated by Brian Payne

"That's cool," "Eew," and "I didn't know that!" are some of the many things you might hear when you use animals as a live teaching tool.

Animals Alive! is a lavishly illustrated paperback filled with ideas for using live animal specimens in and out of the classroom for observation and non-invasive experimentation. Gone are the days of dissecting frogs to learn about anatomy; instead have students devise a test to see if or how the frog responds to light and contact stimuli. The activities in *Animals Alive!* are suitable for students grades two through twelve in many settings: the classroom, home, school, biology lab or the backyard.

The author, Dennis Holley, has designed the book for easy reference and easy reading. Each chapter covers a specific phylum, from sponges to cnidarians to mammals and birds. Within each chapter there is thorough general information about classes within each phyla and there are guides to classification, structure and habitat, collection of species, maintenance of specimens, health, safety and teaching strategies. Throughout the book, the release of unharmed species is strongly recommended.

One flaw in an otherwise easily comprehensible book is the Process Skills Table. The table may have been intended to categorize skills used in each chapter, but no explanation of how to use the chart or the abbreviations is given. The same purpose could have been better achieved by adding a small skills block to each chapter.

There is something in this book for just about everyone. Many of the experiments can be done for less than five dollars (\$5), and the activities are not limited to the biological sciences. At the end of each chapter there are suggestions on how to integrate the work done with animals into other areas of study, including the fine arts, social studies, and mathematics. Holley also provides a valuable "How to Use The Book" chapter that fully explains the process and procedures of capturing and caring for wild specimens. *Animals Alive!* is an incredible teaching tool. Using even a few of the activities included within can add a new dimension to any classroom. The experiments are bound to capture students' interest and would make great science projects as well. *Animals Alive!* is enthusiastically recommended.

- Marla Cohen & Patti Kaufmann

Editor's note: The author is quite detailed in his description of the capture, care and release of live specimens, and this information needs to be read and followed carefully. Precautions need to be taken seriously and shortcuts in the care of animals should not be taken. Local law and regulations regarding the capture of wild animals exist to protect the animals and should be researched and followed at all times.

1994 301 pp. b&w illus.
Roberts Rinehart Publishers
ISBN: 1-879373-58-0
Paperback

ANSS would like to publish any announcement, issues, teaching tips, etc. that you or your organization would like to send us. Please forward your information to: ANSS Newsletter, PEEC, Rd #2 Box 1010, Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328.

Opportunities & Upcoming Events

UNEP Photo Competition, Focus On Your World II, Our Environment and the People and Species that Inhabit This Planet is open to all ages, amateurs and professionals. Photographs must be taken between January, 1994 and April, 1995. The competition was officially launched in October, 1994. For entry forms and more information contact: Focus on Your World II, Information and Public Affairs Branch, UNEP, PO Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya or any UNEP or UN Information Center in your area.

Women in EE Newsletter . . . Martha Olson, Editor of Women in Experiential Education Newsletter, invites submissions of articles, job announcements, or other announcements. Send the material to her at 7621 Rambler Rd. #235, Dallas, TX 75231.

The Meadowlands Sportsmen's Show takes place January 5 - 8, 1995 at the Meadowlands in Secaucus, New Jersey. For information, contact OSEG, 413-594-2085.



Eagles of the Delaware Valley, a week-end long workshop on January 6 - 8, January 20 - 22 or February 3 - 5, 1995 which provides people the opportunity to see these majestic birds soaring overhead or perched in trees by the Delaware

River. Each workshop includes field trips, informative evening presentations and social events. Contact: Pocono Environmental Education Center, 717-828-2319.

"Gambling with the Environment" is the theme of the biannual meeting of the American Society for Environmental History, March 8 - 11, 1995, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Papers are being sought. Contact: Theodore Steinberg, Dept. of Humanities, NJ Institute of Technology, University Heights, NJ 07102-1982.

The 60th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference takes place March 22 - 27, 1995 in Minneapolis, MN. Contact: L.L. Williamson, Wildlife Management Institute, 202-371-1808.

An Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment will take place at the Park Plaza Hotel and Towers, Boston, MA, June 21 - 25, 1995. Papers are being sought. Contact: Demetri Kantarelis, IEA, Economics/Foreign Affairs Dept., Assumption College, 500 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA, 01615-0005, 508-752-5615.

FYI . . .

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the publication of a new brochure titled, "National Estuary Program: Bringing Our Estuaries New Life." This brochure describes one of the EPA's foremost efforts in ecosystem management. To receive copies of this brochure, please contact: National Clearinghouse for Environmental Publications and Information (NCEPI) 11029 Kenwood Road, Building 5, Cincinnati, OH, 45242.

The Izaak Walton League of America has produced a new curriculum for grades one through twelve: Hands On Save Our Streams. The field tested interdisciplinary curriculum can be used to teach social studies, biology, chemistry, math, history, language arts or English and includes all background needed to teach the lessons and field studies. The curriculum is ideal for conservation clubs, scouts or youth groups. For information please contact: Save Our Streams Program, Izaak Walton League of America, 707 Conservation Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20878. 1-800-BUG-IWLA.

Now on Compact Disc . . . the first three titles in the Birding By Ear Series by Richard K. Walton and Robert W. Lawson of compact discs and accompanying booklets are now available. The three titles include; Birding By Ear: Eastern and Central America, Western North America and the Backyard Bird Song: Eastern and Central America. For information contact: Houghton Mifflin Company, 215 Park Ave., NY, NY, 10003.

Trails, Tails & Tidepools in Pails . . . A New resource with over 100 fun and easy nature activities for families and teachers to share with babies and young children is now available. This book was chosen as the winner of the 1993 Parents Choice Approval and also selected as one of the '100 Best Picks for Our Children' in early Childhood News. For information contact: Nursey Nature Walks, 12021 Wilshire Blvd., #250, Los Angeles, CA, 90025, 1-800-597-6700.

Call to Action, a new newsletter is now available to the general public free of charge. The newsletter's goals are to reach the non-activist population with information on urgent environmental issues and to serve as a tool by helping to bring a wider audience to bear on important local issues. Please contact: Call to Action, PO Box 15, Budd Lake, NJ, 07828, 1-201-426-1073

TEACHING TIP

Bonnie Koop

OBJECTIVES: To expand the student's knowledge of some of the different everyday household products that come from the cellulose, bark or sap of a tree. To have students become aware of the fact that trees are an incredible, renewable resource!

MATERIALS: 2 #10 tin cans, forest product flash cards, and a wide open space for the relay teams to run in. (can be modified for indoor use)

TIME: 15-20 minutes

AGE LEVEL: 6th-9th Grades

SUGGESTIONS FOR APPLICATION: Before playing this game it is beneficial to precede with a classroom discussion and/or class sessions on tree identification, forest ecology, etc.

METHOD: Divide group into two equal lines. Each student needs to have 2 or more product cards. Designate 1 tin can for the products the students' think DO come from a tree and the other can for those products that DO NOT come from a tree. Place the tin cans at least 3 feet apart from each other at a distance from the group that would make for a great relay race (your judgement).

Each team member must run up to the cans, deposit their product card in whatever can they think appropriate (only one card per trip, please!!), then run back to the team, slap the next person in line on the hand and continue the process until the cards are gone. Team done first should sit down.

FOLLOW UP: Have everyone gather around sitting in a circle, and begin the discussions by reviewing points regarding the parts of trees that products can come from: the *cellulose* (a complex carbohydrate that constitutes the chief part of cell walls of higher plants and yeilds fiber for many products), the *bark* (the tough exterior covering of a woody root or stem), or the *sap* (the fluid part of a vascular plant; the gum or resin).

Begin pulling the cards out one by one and asking the students whether each product comes from a tree or not and which part of the tree, the cellulose, bark or sap, was used in making the product.

NOTE: On the back of each card, you can design a marking system for YOU, THE ALL-KNOWING-ONE to immediately know if the product came from a tree and the tree product that was used in production. Holding the card with product name or picture side out to the students, you can look on the back for the sneaky little mark!! Cards without a mark represent products that do not come from trees.



This mark represents a product derived from CELLULOSE.



This mark represents a product derived from BARK.



This mark represents a product derived from SAP.

FOREST PRODUCT CARDS can include pictures of everyday household products:
CELLULOSE BASE-carpeting, rayon, sun tan lotion, paper products and more.
BARK BASE-cork, dye, oils, etc.

SAP BASE-paint thinner, perfumes, shoe polish, crayons, sugar, syrup.

Prayer For The Wild Things

The Premiere of 'Art in Concert' by Artist Bev Doolittle and
Musician Paul Winter

Six time nominee and 1993 New Age Grammy Award Winner Paul Winter's new release, *Prayer for the Wild Things*, celebrates the wildlife and wilderness of the Rocky mountains. It features the voices of 27 indigenous animals including the elk, buffalo, grizzly bear, loon, mountain lion, raven and trumpeter swan. Native American musicians Arlie Neskahi and The White Eagle Singers (Canyon Records) and The Earth Band, including Paul Winter Consort members Eugene Friesen, Paul Haley and Glen Velez.

This remarkable musical tapestry of instrumental music, human voices and the voices of animals, *Prayer for the Wild Things* was born of a unique collaboration between famed painter Bev Doolittle and composer, musician Paul Winter by art publisher, The Greenwich Workshop. The album/CD cover art by Doolittle is a stunning painting of a Native American Shaman offering a prayer to the heavens. Much of the music was written and recorded in Yellowstone National Park, Montana's Glacier National Park and in a spectacular canyon of the Missouri River called Gates of the Mountains. Both Doolittle and Winter are thrilled with the results.

"The music of *Prayer for the Wild Things* is intended to be a celebration of the spirit of these creatures," says Winter, "and a musical analogy to the painting. In listening to the voices of these creatures and honoring them, we offer our own prayer for the wild things."

"Music is an inspiration for me, it has visual character . . . when I close my eyes and listen, pictures quickly form in my mind . . . music and art can open the doors of the heart," says Doolittle, " . . . Paul Winter's music paints pictures of nature for me."

This new release is reminiscent of Paul Winter's earlier music in such albums as *Canyon*, *Sun Singer* and *Wintersong*. *Prayer for the Wild Things* is of the sounds and inspirations that first drew one to Paul Winter's music and his cause. It has been along time coming and it is well worth the wait.

Both the limited edition versions of the fine art prints and CD's are available. For the name and address of the authorized dealer near you, please call the Greenwich Workshop at 1-800-243-4246. For information about Paul Winter's music and his Living Music Workshops, please call 1-800-437-2281.

A Prayer For The Wild Things

Oh, Great Spirit, we come to you with love and gratitude for all living things. We pray now especially for our relatives of the wilderness - the four legged, the winged, those that live in the waters and those that crawl upon the land. Bless them that they might continue to live in freedom and enjoy their right to be wild. Fill our hearts with tolerance, appreciation, and respect for all living things so that we all might live together in harmony and in peace.

Marcellus Bear Heart Williams

Celebrate Smokey's 50th

Free learning kits celebrating Smokey the Bear's 50th Anniversary are available to K - 5 teachers from the Smithsonian Institution. Kits contain stories, games, a puzzle, and other entertaining educational activities. In addition to information about the famous Forest Service symbol, the materials discuss forests and fire safety. Also included - a poster, reading list, and resources for teachers.

To obtain kits, write: Smokey Bear Kit, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Smithsonian Institution, Arts and Industries Bldg., 1153 MRC 402, Washington, DC 20560; or call 202-357-3051.

Kids Choose to Help Wildlife

The first Earth Force Alliance campaign this year focuses on Preserving wildlife. Last summer the environmental organization for young people developed a program to help wildlife and to protect and improve their habitats.

The theme of the campaign was selected last spring when more than 145,000 young people across the United States voted it the environmental issue they most wanted to work on together to protect the future of the planet. The wildlife issue captured 40% of the vote. Voters - all under 18 years of age - also showed concern about other pressing issues: 26% voted to "Plant/Save Trees"; 21% to "Reduce Garbage"; and 9% to "Conserve Water." Write-in choices included reducing air pollution, saving the rain forests, and protecting the ozone layer.

Earth Force is a national organization that supports environmental education, action and public citizenship.

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c/o PEEC

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