

April 2010

The Oak Tree

By Paul Boesl

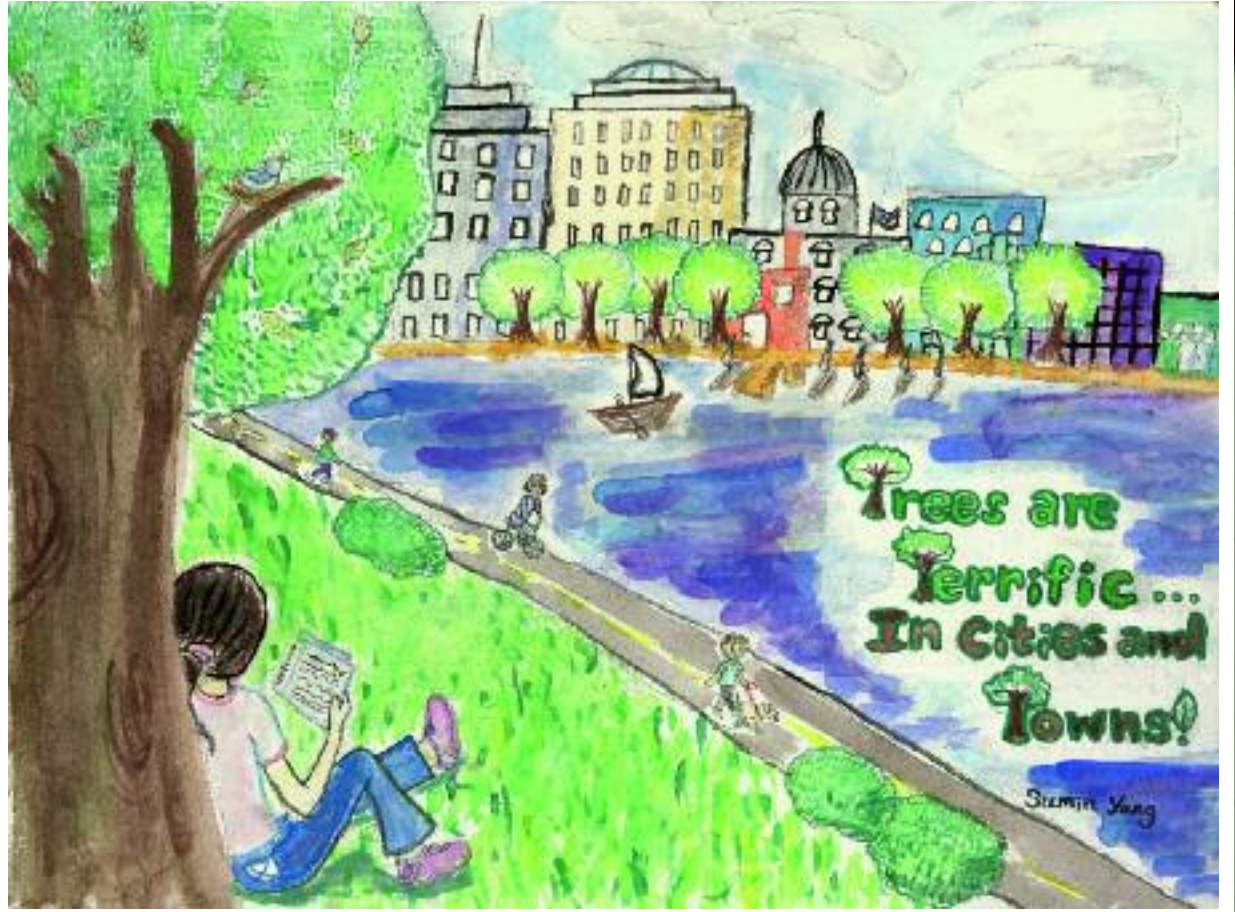
Some people like the trees for their yummy fruits. Others like trees that give shelter to wild animals and some like trees for the things they can make from the wood. My favorite is the oak tree. It reminds me of my ties to farming, fun and family.

When I run my hands across the rough bark it reminds me of the many rows of barbed wire that surround our pastures. Its green leaves remind me of the alfalfa fields in the summer.

I have an oak tree in my front yard. I remember fun times in the summer in the cool shade. I would eat popsicles under the oak tree with my mom and sisters. I also had hard boiled egg picnics with my cousin Cooper and sister Anna. We would throw the yolks at the tree because we didn't like them.

Another reason I like the oak tree is because my grandpa, Uncle Paul and my cousin's baby are buried under a strong oak tree. It makes me feel as if they are protected by the tree.

One tree can remind a person of many things. The oak reminds me of farming, fun and family.



Calendar Art by Sumin Yang • School: Shorewood Elementary, Madison • First Place
Teacher: Stefanie Holzem

Prairie Farm Elementary, Prairie Farm
First Place
Teacher: Mrs. Sandy Hoffman

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MARCH 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	MAY 10 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		1 April Fool's Day Listen for a spring melody as Chorus frogs and Spring peepers begin calling.	2 Good Friday	3 Bats begin their spring arrival. Can you list the seven species of bat found in Wisconsin?
4 Easter	5	6 Can you identify five trees that are budding in your neighborhood?	7	8	9 Bald eagles begin nesting. They build their nests in large trees near rivers or lakes.	10
11 National Environmental Education Week (Apr 11 – Apr 17) Coyote pups born.	12	13 Look for woodland flowers – hepatica, spring beauties and trout lilies – in bloom.	14	15 Painted turtles emerging. Look for them in marshes, ponds and shallow lake areas. Black bears leave dens.	16 Only 14 days until Arbor Day. Time to start planning! Why is it important to plant trees?	17
18 Earth Week and Wisconsin Wildfire Prevention Week (Apr 18 – Apr 24)	19 Patriot's Day Prairie smoke blooms.	20 White-tailed bucks begin growing antlers.	21 John Muir born (1838) – He is considered to be the father of the National Park Service.	22 Earth Day J. Sterling Morton born (1832) – He is credited as the founder of Arbor Day.	23	24 Fun Forestry Fact: Urban forests reduce air pollution and improve our health. 80% of Wisconsin's residents live in urban forests.
25 Forest Appreciation Week (Apr 25 – May 1) Stewardship Week (Apr 25 – May 2)	26	27 Listen for grouse drumming.	28 Full (Pink) Moon American toads begin to sing along shallow waters.	29 Dandelions begin to bloom.	30 Arbor Day Plant, nurture and celebrate trees. GreenWorks! Grants due for the spring funding cycle.	

Why Plant Trees?

Why plant trees? For magic and for mystery!
Why plant trees? For health and wealth and history!

Look around you and the living past is near
Rustling voices we can almost hear
The planters of the seed who long-since disappeared
Did they ask, like me...?

Why plant trees? For magic and for mystery!
Why plant trees? For health and wealth and history!

The crunchy nut, the flavorful fruit, the oxygen
Wood renewable for every one
Sustenance and riches in the golden Sun
Far and wide you'll see...

Why plant trees? For magic and for mystery!
Why plant trees? For health and wealth and history!

Lyrics © Ken Lonquist, 2009



"Why Plant Trees?" was written by 4th grade students from Weyauwega Elementary and songster Ken Lonquist and was performed at the 2009 Arbor Day State Capitol Tree Planting Ceremony.

Get full song lyrics and check out the music video for "Why Plant Trees?" at:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/uf/awareness/arbortree.htm>

Tree Planting for Climate Change: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/polarbear/>