

2008 Forest Appreciation Week Writing Contest

“My Favorite Forest Animal”

WATCH for the contest packet in your mailbox in late January.

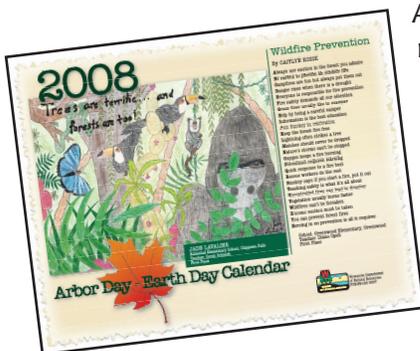
Each year the Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division encourages fourth grade students across Wisconsin to think and write about our tree and forest resources through the Forest Appreciation Week Writing Contest. This year’s theme, **My Favorite Forest Animal**, encourages students to write about a forest animal that they have observed.

Wisconsin’s forest creatures come in all shapes and sizes . . . from the smallest insect to the largest black bear. **Students should describe a forest animal that has captured their imagination and that has increased their sense of wonder and knowledge about our forest resource.**

Student 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 Forest Animal**.
-  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 designated judging team coordinator listed in the 2008 writing contest packet. *Note: Contest packets will be mailed to fourth grade teachers in late January.*

Twelve semi-finalist authors will be chosen and their essays will appear in the 2009 Arbor Day-Earth Day Calendar and on the WDNR Environmental Education for Kids website - *EEK!*



A panel of judges from the DNR will review the 12 semi-finalists and select the top three state winners. The three winners and their teachers will be recognized at a special celebration in our state capitol. The students will be presented with savings bonds courtesy of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association and a landscape tree to be planted at their school or community donated by

the Wisconsin Nursery Association. Their teachers will receive scholarships for both a Learning, Experiences & Activities in Forestry (LEAF) teacher workshop and a Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshop.

Entries must be postmarked by March 7, 2008

Inspirational thoughts from a past student winner:

The Mystery Animal

You're my favorite insect,
You're thin and skinny
You have six legs
But wings not any.

You look like a branch
Or a twig of a tree.
You're camouflage is so good
You always fool me.
You feed on plants
And the leaves of trees
And can eat so much
'Til the tree's not healthy.

When you're found in the tropics
You're the largest one known,
You measure 13 inches
My, how you've grown!

I'd like to be you,
When I play hide and seek
'Cuz I'd never be found,
Not even after a week
Yes you're my favorite insect
My number one pick
Diaperomera femorata
Or, a walking stick.

—Beth Ascher
Lakeview Elementary School, Sparta
1999 Second Place Winner

Add us to your favorites! <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/uf/awareness/arborwriting.htm>

Questions? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

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