

2009 Forest Appreciation Week Writing Contest

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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 participation report form must be attached to your classroom entry. Your classroom entry must be sent to the writing contest coordinator listed in this packet on page 26.
- ✦ **Entries must be postmarked by March 6, 2009.** Contest entries will not be returned and become property of the contest sponsor.
- ✦ Judging Criteria – Theme Application 60%, Originality 30%, Presentation and Accuracy 10%
- ✦ A semi-finalist will be chosen from each CESA District and their essay will appear in the 2010 Arbor Day-Earth Day Calendar and on the WDNR website *EEK!* – Environmental Education for Kids.
- ✦ A panel of judges from the Department of Natural Resources will review the 12 semi-finalists and select the three state winners.

Contest Prizes and Recognition:

- ✦ The three state winners and their teachers will be recognized for their achievement. The first, second and third place students will be presented with a savings bond of \$100, \$75 and \$50, respectively. The Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association donates the 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.
- ✦ Teachers of the three state winners will receive scholarships for a LEAF workshop and a Project Learning Tree workshop, plus additional classroom supplies.
- ✦ Parents, students and teachers will be honored at a special celebration in our State Capitol.

Teachers: On the next few pages you'll find activities and additional information that may assist you with this year's contest. Have fun and enjoy!

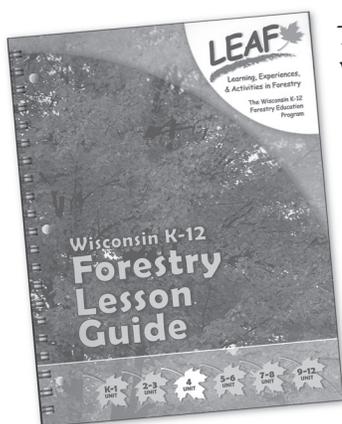
Celebrate Our Tree and Forest Resources

Earth Day – Wednesday – April 22

Arbor Day – Friday – April 24

Forest Appreciation Week – April 19-25

Teachers Win Too!



Teachers of the three state writing contest winners receive a FREE LEAF workshop. In addition, teachers can earn one graduate level credit from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point at no cost for attending the workshop (over \$300 value). LEAF workshops are held throughout the year in many locations around the state.

Workshop participants are introduced to Wisconsin forest-related concepts, teaching techniques and classroom/field materials. Everyone goes home with a LEAF Lesson Guide designated to fit smoothly into their curriculum. The comprehensive Lesson Guide is correlated with Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards and features interdisciplinary classroom lessons, forestry career spotlights and field enhancements for outdoor learning.

The "Me as a Tree" activity in this booklet is modified from the 5th-6th grade unit of the LEAF Lesson Guide.

Stay Connected

FREE Resources for Teachers and Classrooms

Learn about the latest in environmental education by visiting the **EEK! (Environmental Education for Kids) Teacher Pages** at www.dnr.wi.gov/EEK/teacher/. Each month, the education calendar alerts teachers to professional development workshops, grant opportunities and the latest natural resource developments. Teacher materials are available for download in the subject areas of language arts, math, science and social studies. Links to multimedia resources and reference materials are also available to enhance your classroom activities. Looking for a student action project? The **EEK!** Teacher Pages will help you discover how to adopt a bald eagle nest, conduct milkweed monitoring or become a green and healthy school. Take a look!

Free resources are available to order through the **DNR's Education Connection**. The resources are arranged by topic and include materials such as lesson guides, activity books, videos, posters and much more. Order a little or a lot! A hard copy can be downloaded at <http://dnr.wi.gov/education/PDF/EducationConnection.pdf>. You can also browse by topic and order online at www.dnr.wi.gov/education.



A FREE Wisconsin Project Learning Tree (PLT) scholarship for professional development will be awarded to the teachers of the three 4th grade writing contest winners.

PLT is an award winning environmental education program for educators and students in Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. This education program has

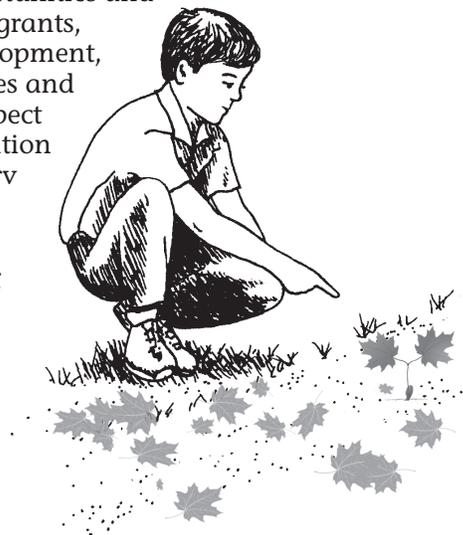
been used in Wisconsin and nationally for over 30 years and teaches students how to think, not what to think, about the environment. Students learn environmental content that correlates to national and state standards in science, social studies, language arts, math and other subjects – and strengthen their critical thinking, team building and problem solving skills.

Project Learning Tree is correlated to the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards and each workshop includes Wisconsin based resources to use in your classroom.

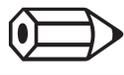
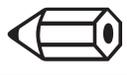
The "Adopt a Tree" activity in this booklet is a sample of the variety of lessons offered in the Project Learning Tree PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide.

Want more?

Get news sent right to your inbox with the **Education News Listserv!** DNR Education News will keep you informed of upcoming DNR and DNR-related educational opportunities and resources such as grants, professional development, curricular resources and more. You can expect to receive information through the listserv two to four times a year. Sign up today at www.dnr.wi.gov/education/newsletter.



First Place 2008 – Theme: “My Favorite Forest Animal”

 **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.

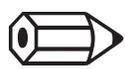
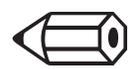
We gather and store our food in the fall,
watch us walk on electric wires up tall.

You can't really tell if I'm a boy or girl,
my favorite forest animal is the squirrel.

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



Inspirational thoughts from a past student winner

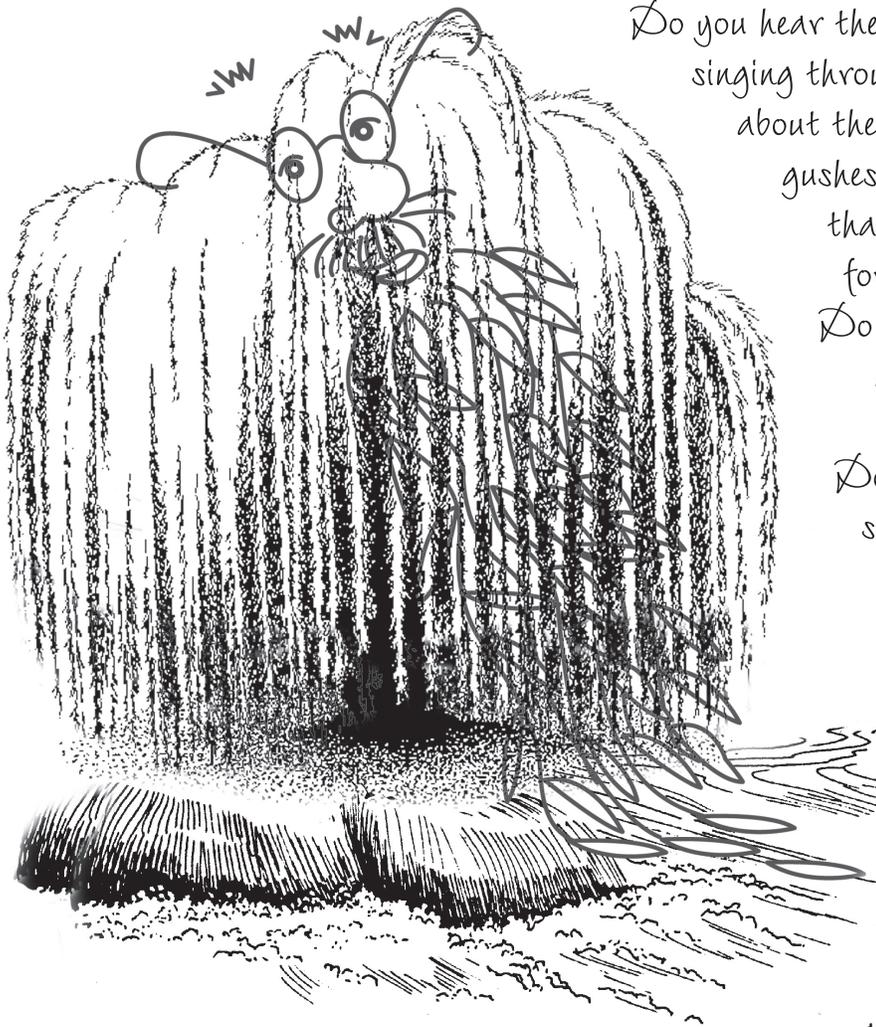
 **Great Grandfather Willow** 

by Megan Binkley, Van Hise Elementary School, Madison

Long, star-silver branches
awakened by the seedling
my great grandfather planted
so many seasons ago.

Recorder of time,
swaying in the breeze;
a time-caressed giant
sighing in the wind.

Do you hear the wind
singing through your branches,
about the river that trickles, runs,
gushes over your roots
that stretch down,
forever into eternity?
Do you see the colorful spirits,
darting through your boughs,
singing their harmonious song?
Do you hear the sweet
sounds of Honey Creek
splashing,
rippling,
under you,
gentle, dancing giant?
Ancient one,
great grandfather willow,
hear me now and rejoice.
Rejoice that you have children
to play on you
and fly through the air
on your long, slender branches,
and to once again enjoy
your beauty and splendor.



First Place Winner, Forest Appreciation Week Writing Contest 2005
School: Van Hise Elementary School, Madison
Teacher: Nancy Peterson
CESA: District 2

