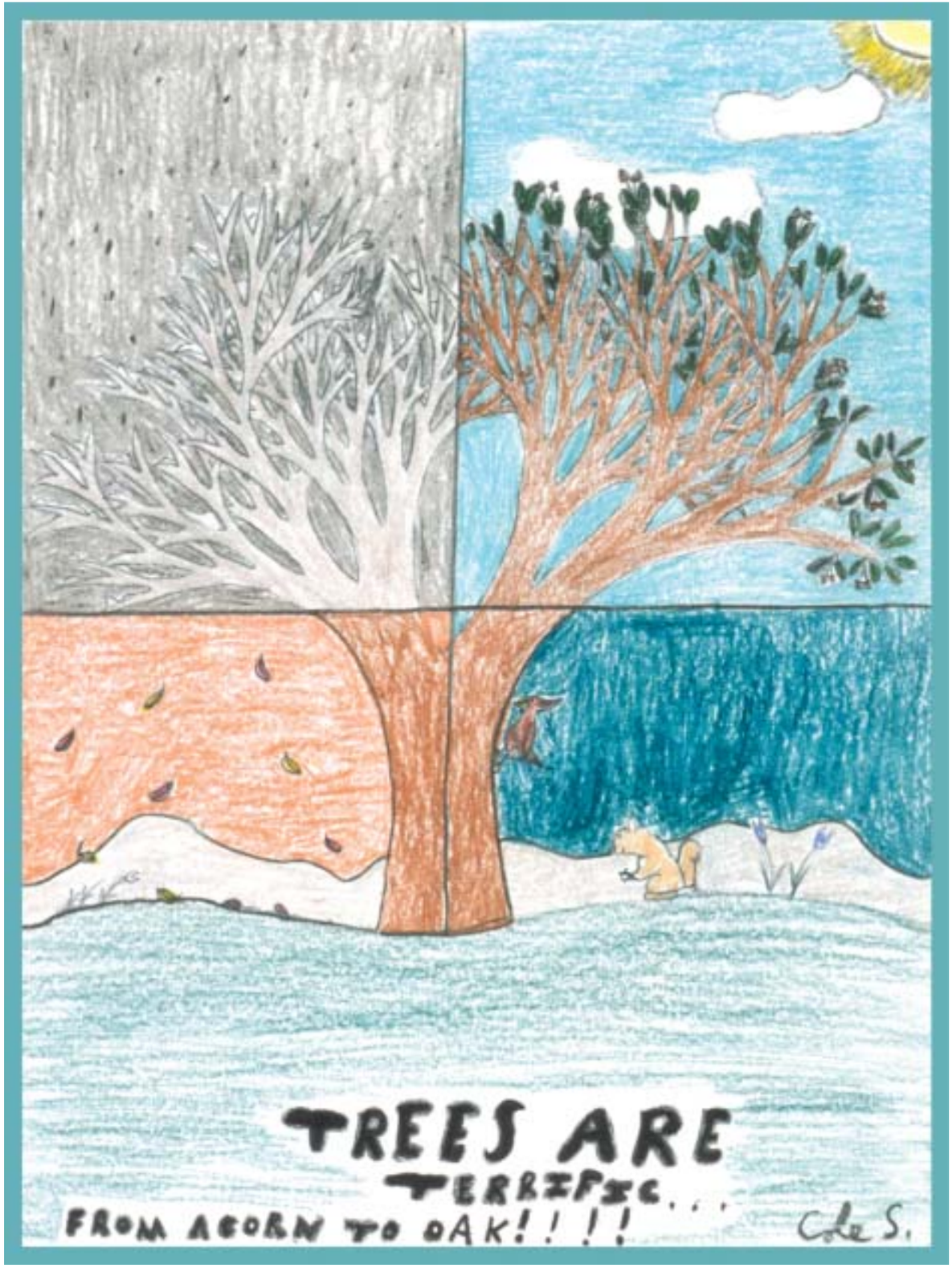

Cole Schuh
McKinley Center School,
Stevens Point
Teacher: Susan Zook

January

December						2003
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February						2004
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2004

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Raccoons

Dustin Collins

My favorite forest animal is a raccoon,
I really hope I see one real soon.
They can live in a hollow log or maybe a tree,
You never know, they could be watching me!

It looks like they're wearing a black facemask,
Their name comes from the Indian word
"arakum", if asked.
Their fur is long and dense, and they have a
ringed tail,
Can you tell the difference between a female
and male?

Of wild animals they are the smartest of all,

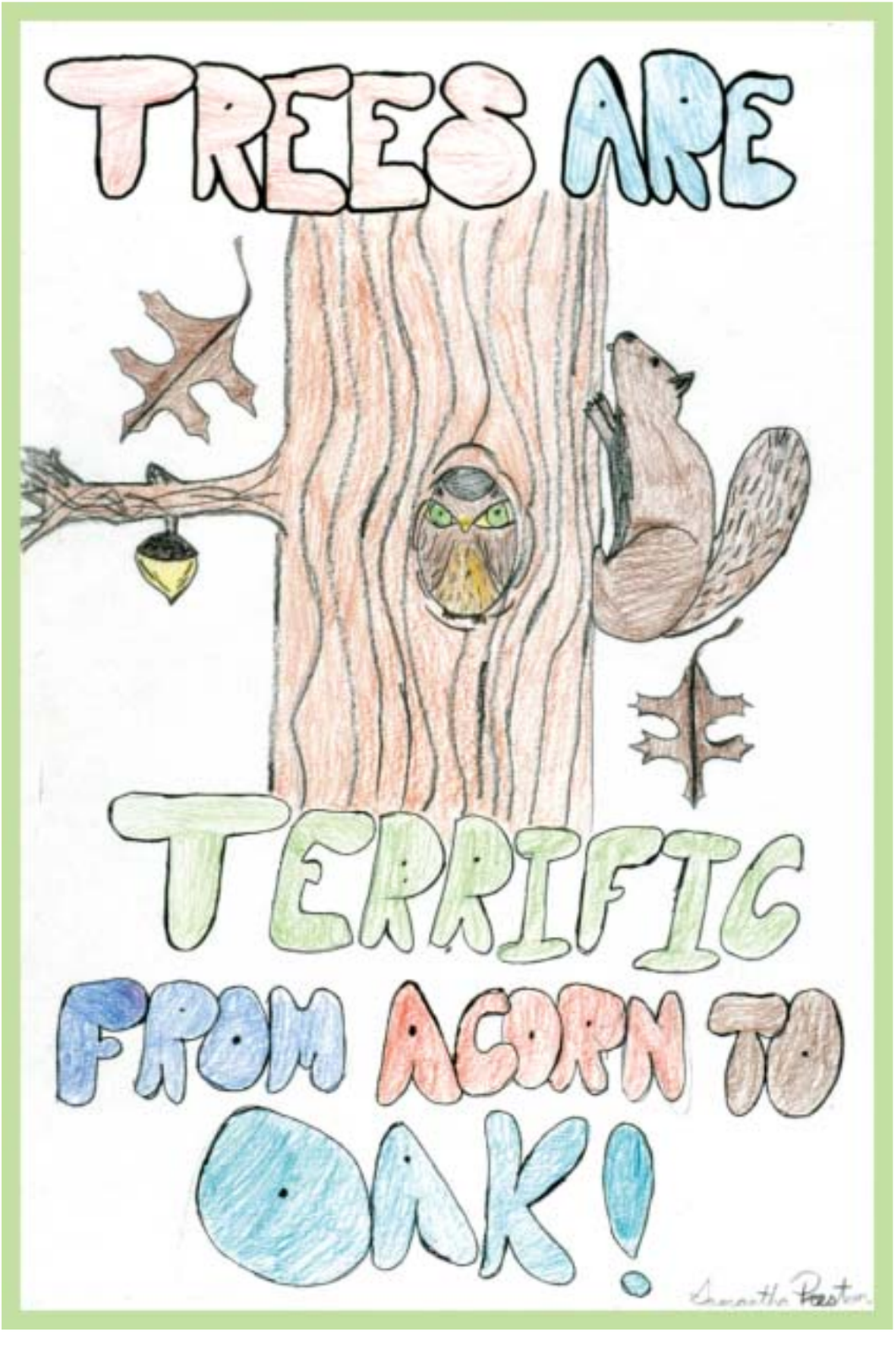
They can reach 3 feet long and that is not
small!
They like to eat protein like insects, birds, and
fish,
They also like fruits and vegetables as a main
dish.

Raccoons are wild; they don't make good pets,
So be careful around them, they can be a big
threat!
I hope you learned something and liked my
poem,
And read it to others who live in your home.

School: St. John's Lutheran
Teacher: Janet Pesch
Location: Racine (Racine County)
CESA: District 1
Honorable Mention

Visit EEK! (Environmental Education for Kids):
http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/eek/

Art — Make wooden bird houses, feeders or jewelry. Create handmade paper greeting cards. Design creatures from cones, twigs and other tree parts.				**1** New Year's Day Make a resolution to visit a forest this year	**2**	**3**
4 Put your old Christmas tree near a bird feeder	**5**	**6** Count the birds you see today. What kinds are they?	**7** Full moon	**8** Have you ordered your 4th grade Arbor Day free trees yet?	**9**	**10**
11 Conservationist Aldo Leopold born (1887)	**12**	**13** Listen for drumming woodpeckers	**14**	**15** How do Canada geese and robins spend the winter months?	**16** Fourth Grade Arbor Day Free Tree application deadline	**17** Submission Deadline Wisconsin Environmental Education Grants
18 Time to watch bald eagles along Lower Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers	**19** Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday (observed)	**20**	**21**	**22** Chinese New Year - Year of the Monkey Lunar Year 4702	**23**	**24**
25	**26** Identify fresh tracks in the snow	**27**	**28**	**29** Learn about winter tree identification	**30**	**31** Practice snowmobile safety



Samantha Preston
Altoona Middle School, Altoona
Teacher: La Vonne Winget

February

January 2004

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March 2004

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2004

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Trees

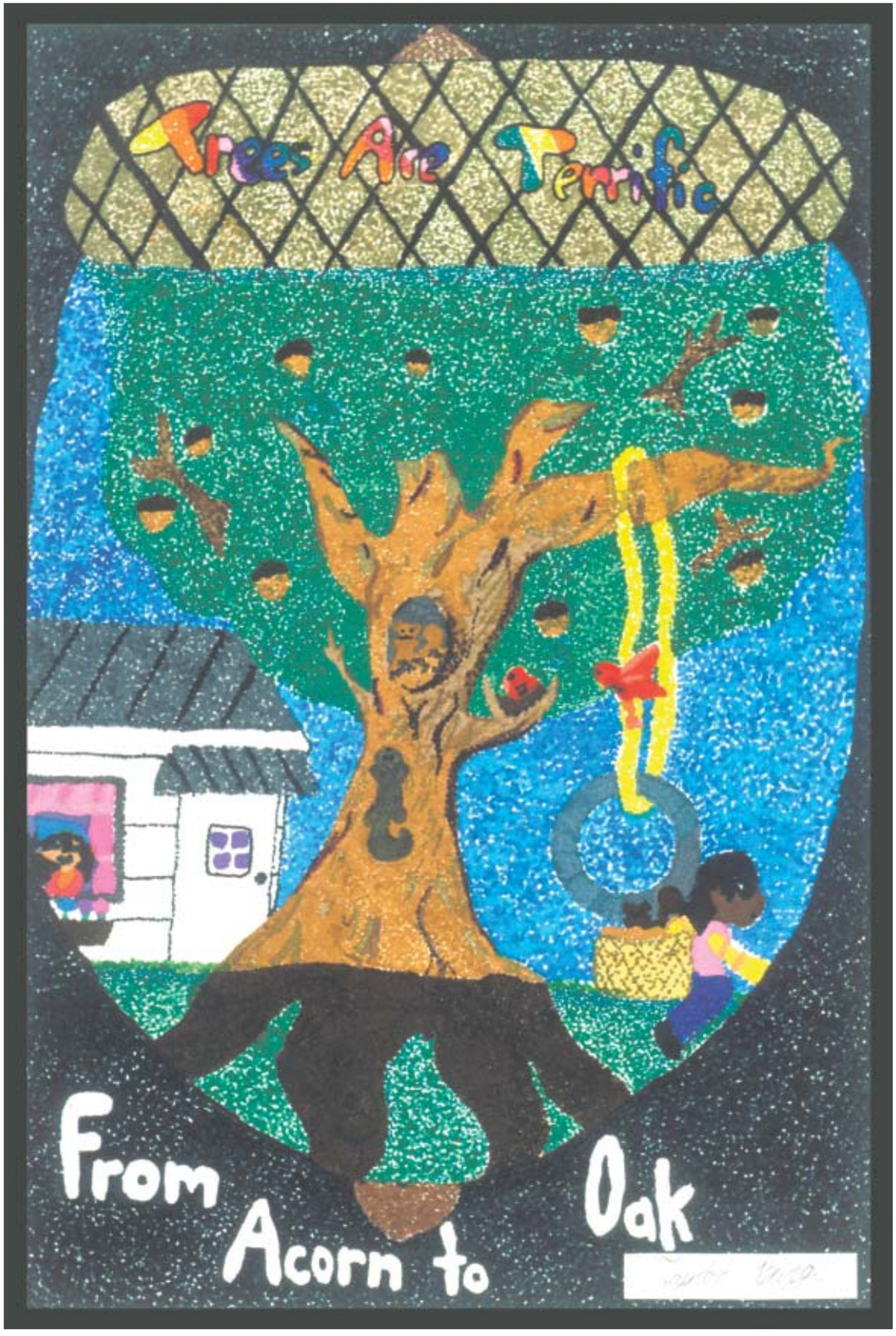
Nadia Elbaar

Trees are my favorite plants.
They are a big help to not just us,
but the living things that surround us.
What would happen if there were no trees?
There would be no fruit for us to eat.
There would be no maple syrup for us at breakfast.
There would be no notebooks for us at school.
There would be no chairs for us to sit on.
Life would be tough without trees.
Imagine a world without oak, maple, hickory,
pine, willow, and all other trees!
Aren't you glad, that "we" live in a world
surrounded by trees?
We, as in the other living things that surround us.
Where would squirrels go if there were no trees?
How would we get the clean, fresh air we breathe
now?
We are very fortunate to have trees everywhere.
We are very fortunate to just look out our window
and see at least one tree. So if you believe trees
don't do much, think again!
Trees really help our community.

School: Van Hise Elementary
Teacher: Sharon Jimenez
Location: Madison (Dane County)
CESA: District 2
Honorable Mention

Get Involved with Project Learning Tree:
http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/pltwild/plt.htm

1 1904 - E.M. Griffith reports to work as the first State Forester in Wisconsin.	**2** Groundhog Day	**3** Black bear cubs born in dens	**4**	**5**	**6** Full Moon Great horned owls nesting	**7**
8	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13** Are there buds on branches yet? Look closely under a microscope!	**14** Valentine's Day
15	**16** President's Day	**17** Arbor Day Poster Contest for 5th Grade classrooms entries due. Theme: "Rebuilding Our Forests - 100 Years of Forestry in Wisconsin".	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**
22 Maple sap begins to run as days warm	**23** Learn an outdoor skill	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**
29 Leap Year Day	**Social Studies/Language Arts** — Interview people of many ages to learn how trees touch their lives. Write an article or letter to the editor of your local or school newspaper sharing your findings.					



Taylor Burge, Second Place
Alcott Elementary, Milwaukee
Teacher: Valerie Erby-Walker

March

February 2004

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April 2004

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2004

The Honey Mushroom
My Favorite Forest Plant

Todd Frydrych

The honey mushroom is an excellent edible species of fungi. The honey mushroom's color varies from grayish pink to yellow brown. When it is young, it is a round button shape.

As it grows, it expands to a flat top with a wavy edge and splits with age. It grows in groups around the base of living or dead trees or stumps of hardwood trees. It grows from late summer to late fall. You must be *very* careful to know what you are collecting, because there are similar species that are poisonous.

I'm the fourth generation that has picked honey mushrooms in Wisconsin. We collect mushrooms by using a small sharp knife and cutting through the clump of stems. We carry them in a small low basket so they don't crush.

We either can or dry the cleaned mushrooms. My great-grandparents strung them on strings and hung them above the wood cookstove to dry. That was the only way they had to preserve them.

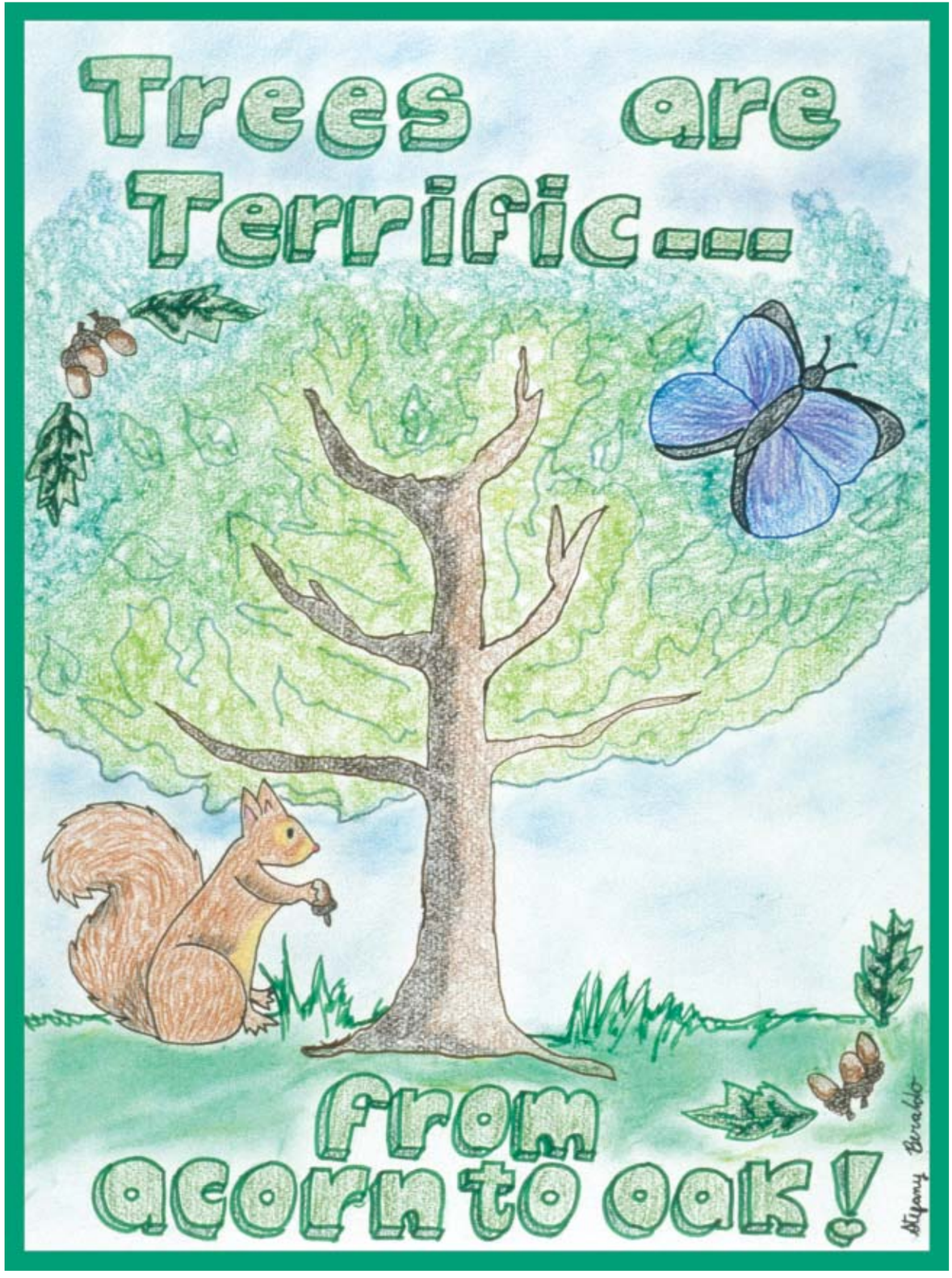
Everyone looked forward to rain after a fall frost, because that's when they grew.

Mushrooms decompose matter and provide soil nutrients in the forest.

School: Park Falls Elementary
Teacher: Teresa Thorson
Location: Park Falls (Price County)
CESA: District 12
Third Place

Visit the WDNR Forestry Website:
http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5** Forest Appreciation Week Writing contest for fourth graders entries due - Theme: "Happy Birthday Forestry!"	**6** Full moon
7	**8**	**9** Ducks, geese and sandhill cranes returning from the south	**10**	**11**	**12** It's true! It takes 35 to 40 gallons of maple sap to make one gallon of syrup.	**13**
14	**15**	**16**	**17** St. Patrick's Day	**18** Clean out your bird houses	**19**	**20** First day of Spring — Have you seen a robin?
21	**22** Home Safe Home. Does your home have a smoke detector?	**23**	**24**	**25** Time to take a spring nature hike	**26**	**27**
28	**29**	**30** First pencil with eraser patented (1858)	**31** Think about March weather. Did it "come in like a lion, go out like a lamb?"	**Science** — Plant and study tree seeds, record germination rates and grow seedlings. Give as Mother's Day gifts!		



Stefany Beraldo, First Place
Van Hise Elementary, Madison
Teacher: Claire Weesner

April

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2004

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My Favorite Forest Animals

Amanda Koch

Do you know what my favorite forest animal is?
To find out, just go ahead, and take my animal quiz!
All they really mainly eat,
Is lots and lots and lots of meat.
My favorite animal doesn't go "quack",
But it hunts in a family pack.
Usually it will sleep during the day,
And mainly they are red or gray.
The males can be three feet tall,
They're almost as tall as me over all!
The females can weigh up to eighty pounds,
And they are a specific kind of hound.
If you haven't already guessed it,
The animal the wolf is my favorite.

School: Jefferson School
Teacher: Ruth Jones
Location: Oshkosh (Winnebago County)
CESA: District 6
First Place

Get Involved with Project WILD:
http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/pltwild/wild.htm

Social Studies/Music - Celebrate Spring! Connect Earth Day to Arbor Day! Fill your school with music, plan an Earth Day concert. Fly a school Earth Day flag, read aloud winning classroom essays about forests and trees, display Arbor Day posters. Hold a school-wide tree search and find large, unusual or historical community trees. Plant an Earth Day/Arbor Day time capsule.				**1** April Fool's Day	**2**	**3**
4 Daylight Savings Time Begins (Set clocks ahead one hour)	**5** Full Moon Passover begins at sundown	**6**	**7**	**8** Be extra careful with fire on windy days!	**9** Good Friday	**10**
11 Easter	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15** Bald eagles incubating eggs	**16**	**17**
18 Check your woodlands for spring wildflowers	**19** Wisconsin Wildfire Prevention Week Theme: "Building Partnerships" (19-23)	**20**	**21** Listen for ruffed grouse drumming	**22** Earth Day	**23** Wolf pups born	**24**
25 Celebrate Forest Appreciation Week 25 April -May 1	**26** Everyone has a favorite tree story. What's yours?	**27**	**28**	**29** Trees cool city hot spots	**30** Arbor Day	

Natalie Lindquist, Third Place
Our Lady of Peace Intermediate, Marshfield
Teacher: David Patten

May

April 2004						
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June 2004						
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2004

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A Day In The Life Of A Squirrel

Maren Schutz

S T R E T C H
Time to rise!
Munch munch munch
Breakfast of acorns.
D
O
W
N my tree to look for nuts.
Prance prance prance
I love dancing on dry autumn leaves.
Crunch crunch
Under my tiny feet.
Dig dig dig
I hunt under leaves for yummy treasure.
YEY!!
Under the ancient oak tree! A jackpot!
Umph umph
My cheeks are bulging!
Scamper scamper scamper
Back to my tree.
UP up
My tree,
Hide my treasure
In a secret place.
Munch munch munch
Supper of nuts.
ZZZZ ZZZZ
Go to bed - - -
What a day.

School: Washington Island School
Teacher: Gloria Small
Location: Washington Island (Door County)
CESA: District 7
Second Place

Visit EEK! (Environmental Education for Kids):
http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/eek/

Geography — Map the vegetation around your school grounds. Conduct a tree planting project.						**1**
2 Wild turkeys are gobbling	**3**	**4** Full moon	**5**	**6**	**7** Put up hummingbird feeders - 1 part sugar to 4 parts water.	**8** International Migratory Bird Day
9 Mother's Day	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14** What makes a good tree from a woodpecker's point of view?	**15** Attend an "open house" at a woodland property in your county. Details at http://www.wisconsinwoodlands.org/
16	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21** Discover the outdoors! Learn to fish!	**22**
23 Look for wild asparagus	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29** Statehood Day - Wisconsin is 156 years old.
30 Monarch butterflies arriving	**31** Memorial Day (observed)					

Cody Urban
Hillsboro Elementary, Hillsboro
Teacher: LeAnn Fisher

June

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The Deer Of The Forest

Elisabeth Long

The deer of the forest is a beautiful sight,
When I see it in its home it just feels right.

If you look at it closely you'll certainly see,
How truly remarkable this creature can be.

With their graceful jumps and golden-brown fur
This must be one of your favorite animals for sure.

As it leaps and runs through the dark forest night,
Just one sound will make it jump out of sight.

This wonderful animal is definitely great,
For the fate of this creature let there be no date.

I hope this animal will always stand tall,
In the beautiful forest I hope will never fall.

School: Bluff View Intermediate
Teacher: Barbara Toberman
Location: Prairie du Chien (Crawford Co.)
CESA: District 3
Honorable Mention

Get Involved with Project Learning Tree:
http: //www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/pltwild/plt.htm

Remind students to participate in the summer reading program at their local library. Theme is "Discover New Trails at Your Library."		1	2	3 Full moon	4	5 World Environment Day Free Fishing Weekend - time to visit our state parks and forests!
6	7	8	9 Peak time for deer fawn births	10	11 Luna Moths seen at night	12
13	14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18	19
20 Father's Day Summer begins	21	22 Have a picnic in the shade of a favorite tree	23	24	25 Listen for green frogs —a banjo twang	26
27	28 Fireflies brighten the night	29	30	**Science** — Keep a log of how wildlife uses your neighborhood trees. Describe the animals (including insects!) and how they use flowers, leaves, limbs, seeds and bark. Surprises await you!		

Nicole Heinen
St. Victor School, Monroe
Teacher: Armanda Herbst

July

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2004

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The Maple Tree

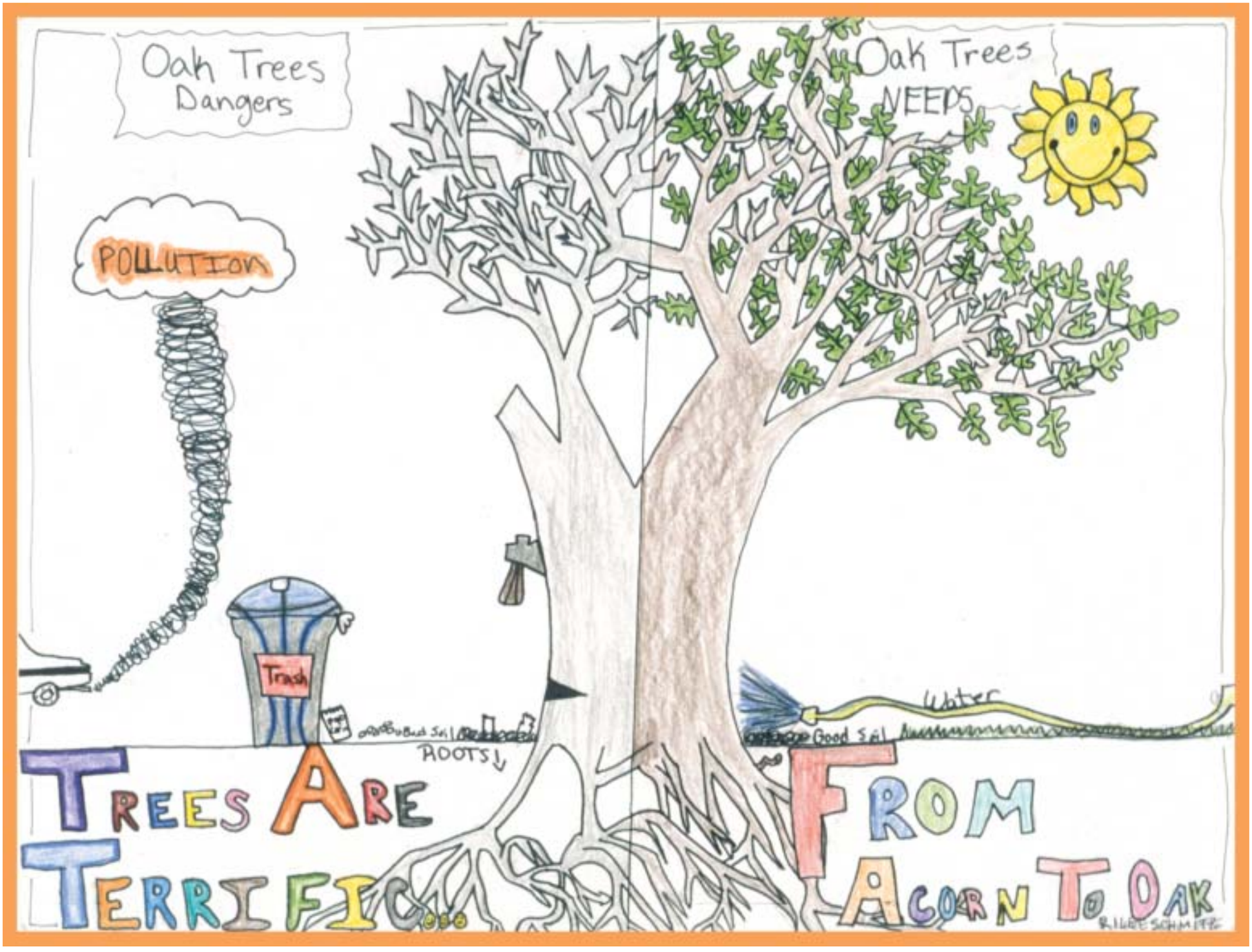
Robert Anderson

My favorite forest plant is the maple tree. In the spring, you can tap the trees and get the sap to make maple syrup. It's limbs spread out so you could build a treehouse in it or hook a swing on it to have fun in the summer. The big leaves keep the hot summer sun off you too! In the fall the maple leaves turn orange, red and yellow to make the forest look really pretty. In the winter the strong branches make good shelters and homes for birds and squirrels. The maple tree is my favorite because it's great all year long.

School: Hillsboro Elementary
Teacher: Jenny Shore
Location: Hillsboro (Vernon County)
CESA: District 4
Honorable Mention

Visit the WDNR Forestry Website:
http: //www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/

Art — Design a T-shirt with a forest theme. Photograph your friends in their leaf-print t-shirts.				**1** Canada Day	**2** Full moon	**3**
4 Independence Day	**5**	**6**	**7** Its true! A robin may devour as much as 14 feet of worms on a good day of hunting.	**8**	**9**	**10**
11	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15** Butterfly weed in bloom	**16**	**17** Look for monarch caterpillars on milkweed foliage
18	**19**	**20** Humans land on the moon – (1969)	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**
25	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29** Walking sticks are abundant	**30** Make it a rule to keep lawn mowers and bikes away from trees.	**31** Full Moon (Blue Moon)



Rilee Schmitz
Mineral Point Elementary, Mineral Point
Teacher: Anne Palzkill

August

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September 2004						
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My Favorite Forest Animal

Laura Sommers

My favorite forest animals are the white-tailed deer. White-tailed deer are my favorite because, when you watch them run they're so graceful, as you watch their slender legs bound behind them.

Their cute little baby fawns have tiny white spots and the big bucks' antlers with velvet in the fall look so soft you just want to touch them. When I spot a doe in the tall grass, I can see her ears twitching. She stays alert to protect her baby.

I also like white-tailed deer because they're very intelligent animals that use their noses and ears to hear and smell hunters. I always look in the fields to see if there's a herd of deer, hoping to see a big buck in the distance.

Bucks, does and fawns are such a big and beautiful part of Wisconsin's woods. I don't think Wisconsin would be the same without the white-tailed deer!

School: Tri-County Primary
Teacher: Linda Copas
Location: Plainfield (Waushara County)
CESA: District 5
Honorable Mention

Get Involved with Project WILD:
http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/pltwild/wild.htm

1 Day Lilies in bloom	**2**	**3**	**4** Young loons are learning to fly	**5**	**6**	**7**
8	**9** Smokey Bear is 60 years old. "Smokey knows unattended campfires spell disaster."	**10**	**11**	**12** Its true! A hummingbird feeds every 10 minutes, visiting as many as 1,000 flowers daily.	**13**	**14** Time to get ready for school
15	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20** Watch for migrating nighthawks	**21**
22 Turtle eggs are beginning to hatch	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27** Spider webs glisten like diamonds in the early morning sunshine.	**28**
29 Full moon	**30**	**31**				

Science — Identify ten different trees by leaves, bark, shape, wood, etc. Sample tree products: maple syrup, apples, nuts. Determine which tree parts you're eating.

Amie Bomber
St. Mark Ev. Lutheran, Green Bay
Teacher: Mark Koelpin

September

August 2004						
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October 2004						
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Sturgeon

Amber Mallmann

The first warm days of spring
Make water temperatures rise.
It's the sign for their journey to begin.

The ancient fish swims to the north
Along the Wolf River waters,
From Lake Winnebago,
Where it normally makes it home.

It rubs it's belly as it swims
To lay it's eggs among the rocks.
Many spectators line the shore
To catch a peek of this monstrous old fish.

Its final destination is the Shawano Dam,
Before turning back home.

I'll never forget the year I stepped on the wet rocks,
To pet the side of a sturgeon.
Its sides were smooth because it does not have scales
But rows of thick plates on it's sides and bottom.

Each year I look forward to seeing this family of fish
That evolved with the dinosaur's 200 million years ago.

School: Sacred Heart
Teacher: Theresa Mastrodonato
Location: Shawano (Shawano County)
CESA: District 8
Honorable Mention

Editor's note: One may not often think of the fish that can be found using the lakes and rivers within Wisconsin's forests. Can you list some species of fish that use our forest lakes and streams?

Visit EEK! (Environmental Education for Kids):
http: / /www.dnr.state.wi.us/eek/

Geography — Dissect a candy bar to identify tree products (nuts, cocoa, coconut, wrapper). Map their possible origins. Show how people depend on forests for food, shelter and livelihood.			**1**	**2** Have your students make an ornament for the State Capitol holiday tree— see www.wisconsinforestry.org for details.	**3**	**4**
5 Wild grapes are ripening	**6** Labor Day	**7**	**8**	**9** Bucks rub velvet from antlers	**10**	**11** Patriot Day
12 Grandparents Day	**13** Have the acorns fallen yet?	**14** Woodsy Owl is 33 years old. Woodsy reminds us to "Lend a Hand - Care for the Land."	**15** Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown	**16** Mexican Independence Day	**17**	**18**
19	**20** Get set for the hunting season—take a hunter education course.	**21** Practice campfire safety	**22** Fall begins	**23**	**24** Learn to identify trees by their leaves	**25** Yom Kippur begins at sundown
26	**27**	**28** Full moon	**29**	**30**		

Suzy Solin
Spring Valley Elementary, Antigo
Teacher: Kay Parise

October

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November 2004						
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Cricket

Hannah Brusch

When at night I can't get to sleep,
I listen for that little peep,
My parents, I know, are fast asleep.

I creep down the steep stairs and out the door.
The moon lights the woods and forest floor.

I look all around and search for the sound.
It's really not wanting to be found.
As I look from side to side and up and down,
I hear again the little creature on the ground.

It's there I finally see,
The little creature that sings to me,
The night sound of the Wisconsin song.
The cricket sings my lullaby all summer long.

School: Arbor Vitae-Woodruff Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Markofski
Location: Arbor-Vitae (Vilas County)
CESA: District 9
Honorable Mention

Get Involved with Project Learning Tree:
http: //www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/pltwild/plt.htm

Math — Explore how much wood is used to produce an issue of your favorite comic book or newspaper. Investigate rates of recycling and reforestation. Graph your data.					**1**	**2**
3	**4** National Fire Prevention Week – 4-8	**5**	**6** Look for the new book by Julia Pferdehirt as a resource in teaching Wisconsin forest history.	**7**	**8** Have the leaves turned colors in your area?	**9**
10	**11** Columbus Day (observed)	**12**	**13** Pestigo Fire (1871)	**14** Star Spangled Banner written – 1814	**15** First day of Ramadan	**16**
17 Watch for woollybear caterpillars National Forest Products Week (17-23)	**18**	**19** Global demand for wood products is growing at the same rate as world population, about 2% per year.	**20** The average American uses about a ton of wood in a year, the equivalent of one 100-foot-tall tree that is 16 inches in diameter.	**21** Discover the outdoors! Learn to use a compass and read maps!	**22** Pumpkins ready for pies and jack-o-lanterns	**23**
24	**25**	**26**	**27** Full moon	**28** Tamaracks turn golden	**29**	**30**
31 Halloween Daylight Savings ends. Set clocks back 1 hour.						

Jamie Robb
Grantsburg Middle School, Grantsburg
Teacher: Yvonne Bergman

November

October 2004						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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 2004						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

2004

Sun • Mon • Tues • Wed • Thur • Fri • Sat

My Favorite Forest Plant

Stephanie Lindow

My very favorite forest plant is an eastern white pine. I love the smell of its green needles. I like to swing up on its thick bottom branch and climb. The birds and squirrels hear me coming and hide. I love looking down and seeing my whole backyard beneath me. It's so quiet and peaceful up there. Then, after a while the birds begin to sing. At night in the summer I hear the crows cawing in the tree.

Then, in autumn the wind blows cold gusts of air that knock off some thin, little twigs. In winter the tree's branches have a thin layer of ice on them. The spring brings the sweet smell of pine back again.

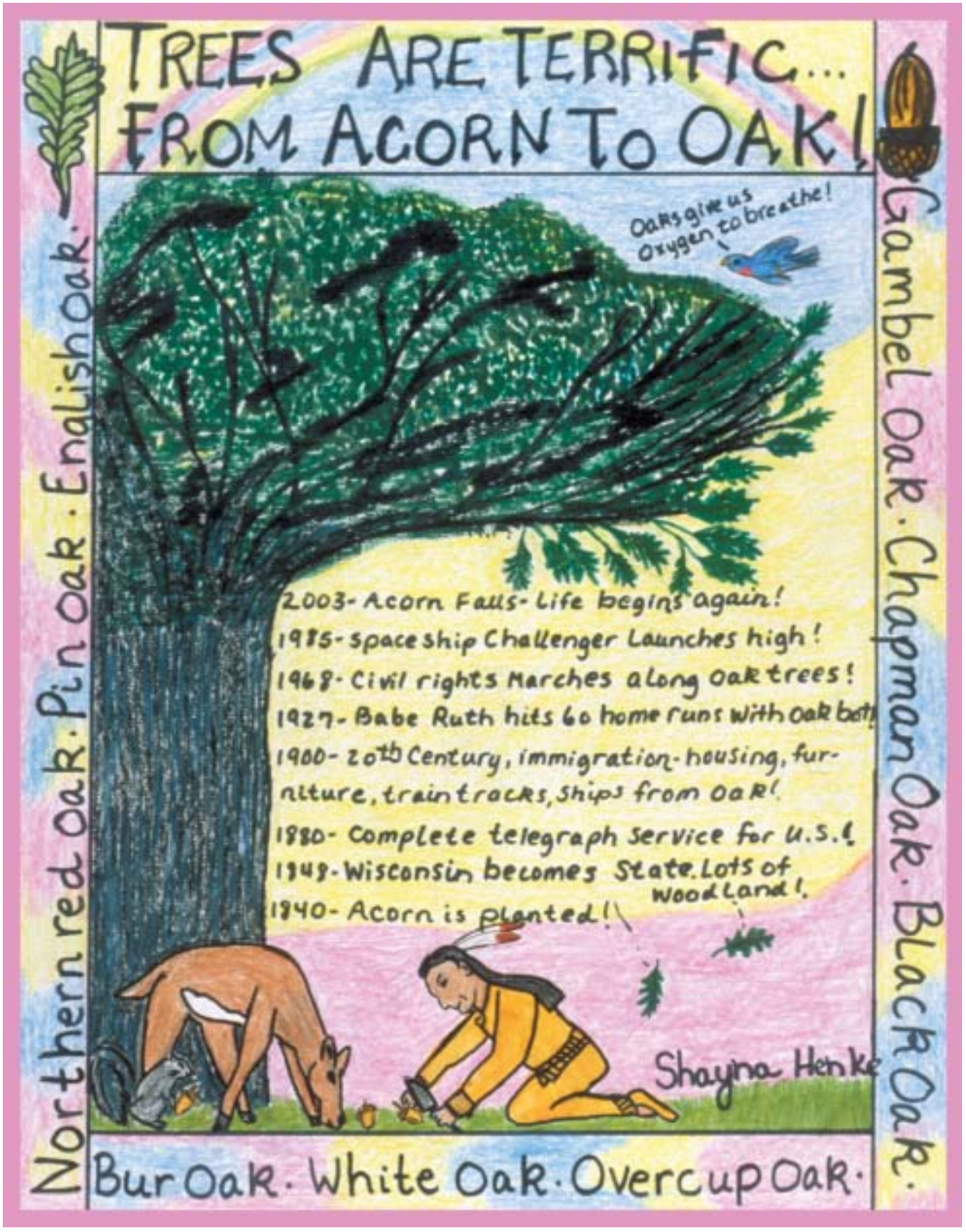
This tree is very special to me because it is a very important part of life. Every day it tells you something by Mother Nature. And if you can't tell already...

I love trees!

School: Medford Elementary
Teacher: Greg Klapatauskas
Location: Medford (Taylor County)
CESA: District 10
Honorable Mention

Visit the WDNR Forestry Website:
http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/

	1 Go on a nest hunt. They're easy to spot in bare trees.	**2** Election Day	**3**	**4**	**5** Leave brush piles for wildlife	**6**
7	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11** Veteran's Day Remembrance Day (Canada)	**12**	**13**
14	**15**	**16** Look for flocks of migrating swans	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20** Opening weekend gun deer season
21	**22** Raccoons moving into winter quarters	**23**	**24** It's true! During hibernation bears lose their footpads and grow new ones.	**25** Thanksgiving day	**26** Full moon	**27**
28	**29**	**30**	**Language Arts** — Imagine the most beautiful tree in the world. Think about how it would look, where it would grow, what you would say to it. Share your ideas through stories and drawings.			



Shayna Henke
Jackson Elementary, Jackson
Teacher: Jennifer Feiter

December

November 2004

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28	29	30				

January 2005

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2004

Sun • Mon • Tues • Wed • Thur • Fri • Sat

Pine Trees Of The Forest

Siiri Larsen

One day I woke up and ran downstairs to tell my parents that I had a wonderful dream about pine trees. I was so excited I could not stop thinking about how many ways the pine tree is beautiful and useful! That's where my story begins!

One day I was walking in the woods and noticed that pine trees are remarkable trees. They have many different uses. They are helpful to animals for their survival needs like a shelter for some or a place for finding food.

Suddenly I stopped. It was very quiet. I looked to the left and then I saw . . . a beautiful pine tree! It was tall, green, and full of branches. I could not believe how beautiful it was.

When I came home I noticed this wonderful smell. It was the smell of the warmth of the fireplace that pine tree logs give. Then I thought that the Christmas tree is a tradition for our country that makes many of us think of beautiful decorated trees. Too bad this is a use that only comes once a year.

I thought of more very important uses like how they make paper and furniture, like my pine dresser.

The pine tree is beautiful in many ways. One of them is its beautiful smell. The smell of a pine tree is an outdoors fresh smell. It also is pretty in the winter because it is the only kind of tree that does not lose its leaves.

As you can see, pine trees are beautiful and useful and that is why I dream about pine trees.

School: Webster Elementary
Teacher: Terry Day
Location: Webster (Burnett County)
CESA: District 11
Honorable Mention

Get Involved with Project WILD:
http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/pltwild/wild.htm

Nature — Remember your feathered friends during the holiday season. Select an outdoor tree and decorate it for the birds. String popcorn garlands around the tree. Fill pine cones and hollowed out orange halves with peanut butter, bird seed and corn meal. Attach them to your tree.			**1**	**2** Keep bird baths ice free	**3**	**4**
5	**6**	**7** Hanukkah begins at sundown	**8**	**9** If there's snow, look for snow fleas around the base of tree trunks.	**10** Name two animals that hibernate.	**11**
12 Flying squirrels at suet feeders during the night	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16** Snowflakes can be huge. In 1887 at Fort Keough, Montana some of the snowflakes that fell measured 15 inches in diameter!	**17**	**18**
19	**20**	**21** Winter begins	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25** Christmas Day
26 Full moon Kwanza begins	**27** Time to build a snowman	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31** New Year's Eve	