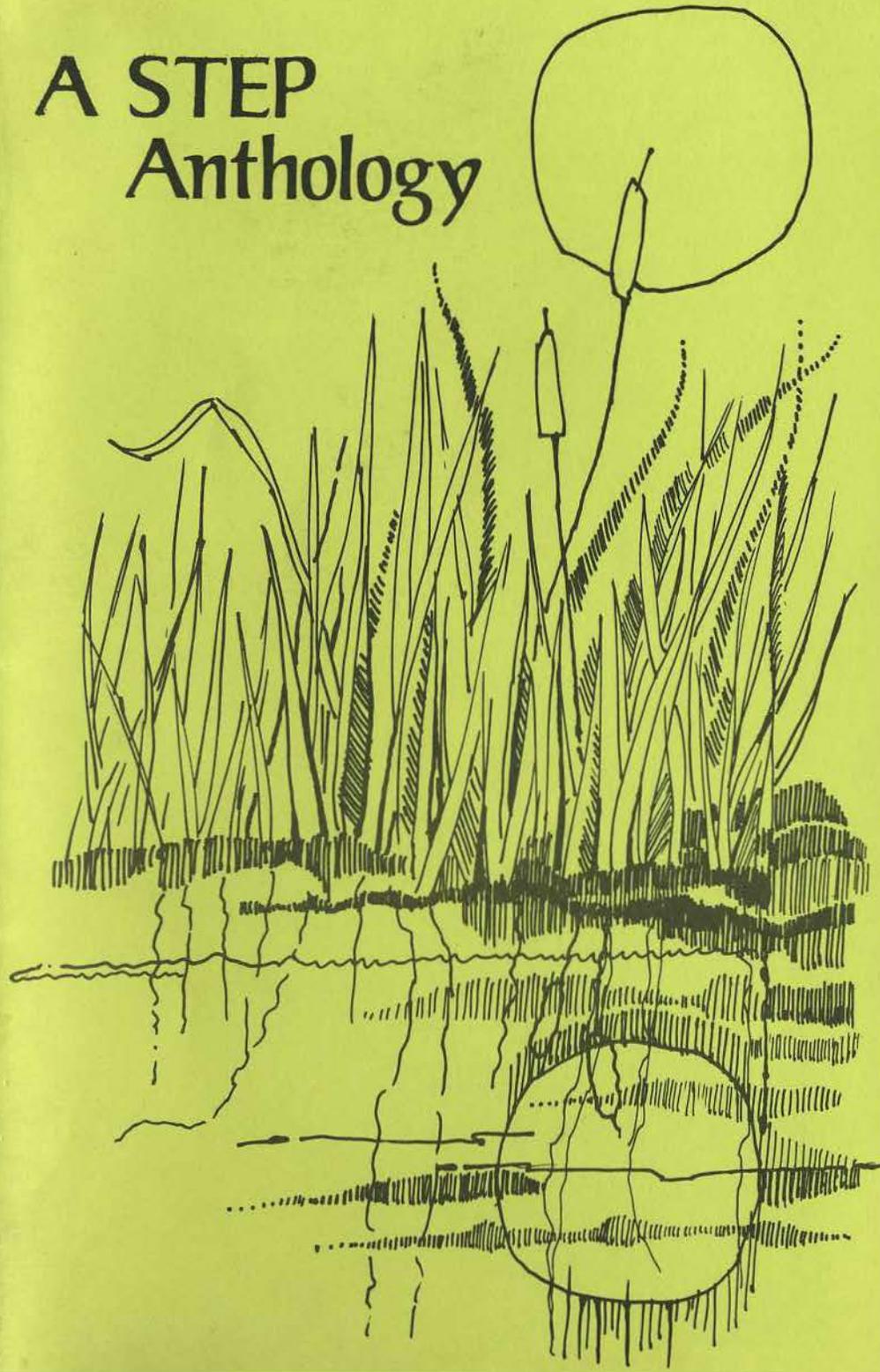


A STEP Anthology



Funds for the procurement of this
booklet were provided by a S.T.E.P. grant
from the Office of Environmental Education.

Grant director is Anita Hocker, Environ-
mental Education Specialist, Sarasota County
Schools.

Table of Contents
Airwork, layout, editing, typing and
illustration for this book were provided
by Marjorie Miller, Environmental
Florida Audubon Society

A STEP Anthology

Earth
Trees
Wind and Water
Creatures
Nature
Life
Day's End

Environmental Study Areas

In fantasy I walk
an endless path and find a
blue egg called peaceful

-Vicki Weglowski

Artwork, layout, editing, typing and inspiration for this booklet were provided by Merlien Wilder King and Charlotte Tremel, Environmental Education staff of the Florida Audubon Society.



Table of Contents

Introduction by Carla Palmer

Poetry

Beautiful Day

Trees

Wind and Water

Creatures

Nature

Life

Day's End

Environmental Study Areas

S.T.E.P.

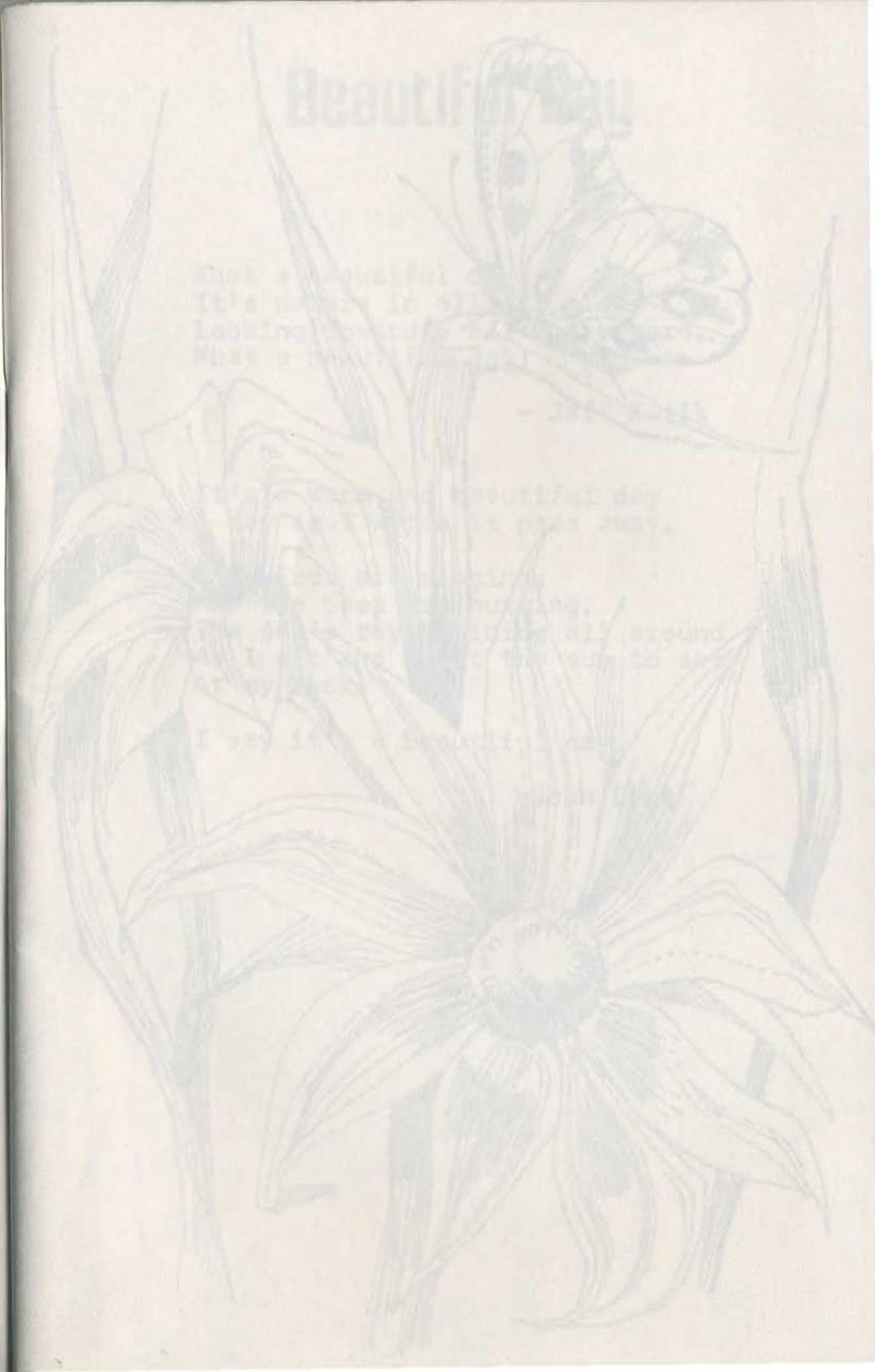
Students Toward Environmental Participation

On October 11-12, 1975, some ninety high school students from throughout the state of Florida participated in an environmental education workshop designed to enable them to teach environmental concepts and values to younger students.

The students learned their lessons well. Their poetry reflects the beauty, sensitivity, and humor with which they approached their talk. The environmental study activities reflect their understanding and love of the environment as well as the elementary aged students they will teach.

We provide this anthology for your enjoyment and your enlightenment.

Carla Palmer
Vice President/Education
Florida Audubon Society





Beautiful Day

What a beautiful day!
It's nature in all its glory
Looking upward - all was upward.
What a beautiful day!

- Jeff Kosik

It's a warm and beautiful day
I say as I watch it pass away.

The birds are singing,
And the bees are buzzing.
The sun's rays shining all around
As I sit and await the sun to set
At my back.

I say it's a beautiful day.

-John Bent



Trees

They will be here forever
They will be here longer than man
They really do alot
But mostly they just stand.
They stand alone
Or they stand in number.
They stand to house birds, insects,
and even man.
And trees, like man, serve an
important part of life.

-Rudy Patton

Reclining on a Tree

Entering the shady grove
I lacked a place to sit;
I looked around, hoping
Nature has provided me with it.
I first sat on the leafy ground,
But needed something more;
So I turned to that which blocked
the heat,
And set myself at the tall tree's feet,
And viewed the nearby shore.

-John Montgomery

A Live Oak, like people
They start from a small seed
Though physically different
They are the same.
They grow in stages as we do
And like us, they grow
To be very tall and strong.

But their time comes
As with us, when they die,
But if you think about it
Are they really dead?
For if you look at a dead oak
You see other living organisms
Living on the nutrients in the tree
And other organisms feed on these
Smaller ones-
And if it weren't these, where would
We be?

-Dan Netherton

The old oak stands so worn and tall
Sometimes you wonder what keeps it
from falling,
Because it has long since lost
its greenery.
It stands like a symbol of what
it used to be
But has long since lost all its
beauty
And seems to be dwelling from
day to day
Like so many people of today.

-Ray Pendleton

Birch

Its lush leaves licking skyward
When brushed by the browsing breeze
It's brown, ringed bark bristling
As fall makes its visit to the trees.

Forming and changing their wardrobe
Adopting the contour of the time
The tree has a memory for fashion
Each year does its dance of the clime.

-Susan Bostelman

Trees, trees, beautiful trees.
Trees, trees have beautiful leaves
Of yellow, green and brown.
Start from the top and then fall down.
Some trees also have beautiful blooms
Which fall to the ground like leaky
balloons.
But remember all trees big and small
Are beautiful to see for all.

-Lance Milnes

It was one bright and sunny morning.
The wind was blowing at a strong pace.
The Spanish moss was dancing in the
live oak trees.
The trees were draped with long
strings of moss.
The wind blew stronger and stronger
And the moss danced much faster.

-Kevin Waters

Bowing and bending
Gracefully swaying,
The trees speak to me
In whispers of age old wisdom.
Of the things they have seen
and endured
And of things to come.
For to me,
A tree represents an eternity

-Kim Mulder

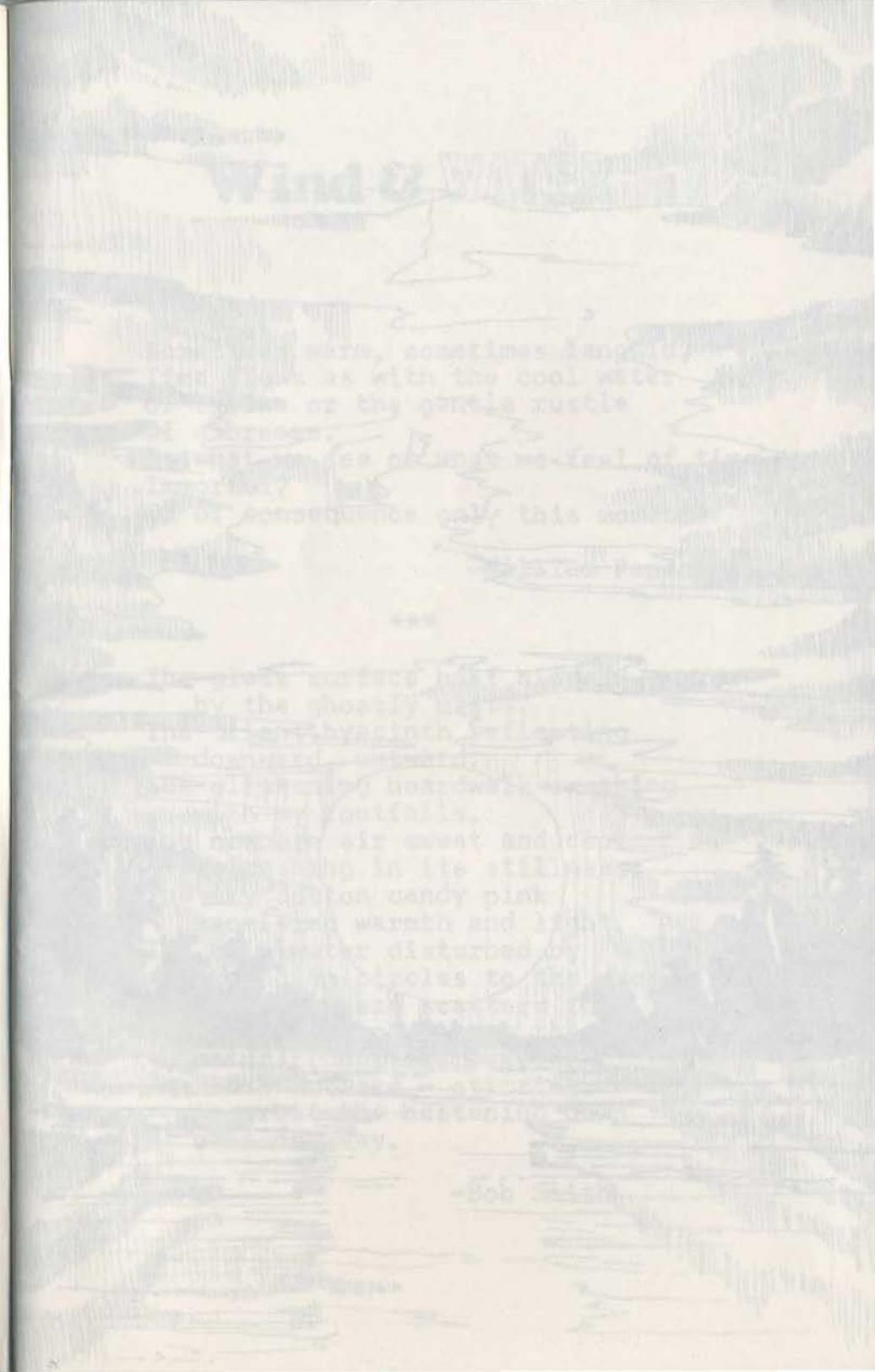
Old Mr. Oak
With your grey beard
Hanging low and think-
How can it be
That you've been here so long
Never moving-
Never speaking-
Yet you endure?

Old Mr. Oak
Your skin is old and wrinkled
And your arms are bent and gnarled-
How I wish
That I could share
Your knowledge of the ages.

-Charles Laurel

A tree to me is very special
It's not only shade or a thing
to climb
A tree seems to talk and listen
to everything you say
Each tree has its own little
personality
A tree is a very special thing.

-Kerry E.





Wind & WATER

Sometimes warm, sometimes languid,
Time flows as with the cool water
Of a lake or the gentle rustle
Of a breeze.
Is what we see or what we feel of time,
Immortal?
Or of consequence only this moment?

-William Pendola, Jr.

The glass surface half hidden
by the ghostly mists.
The silent hyacinth reflecting
downward, outward.
The glistening boardwalk creaking
with my footfalls.
The newborn air sweet and cool
refreshing in its stillness.
The sky cotton candy pink
promising warmth and light.
The calm water disturbed by
expanding circles to the shore.
The first breeze scatters the
lazy mist and awakens the
water from its sleep.
The lake - awake - stirring
to greet the hastening dawn
of a new day.

-Bob Smith

The lily pads drift around the lake
Just to see what they can see.
The wind is their director, he knows
Where he wants them all to be.
They never really seem to care
Which direction he shall blow,
For whatever way the wind chooses,
That's where they shall go.

-N. Steele

Wind-
Blowing through the trees
Makes me happy, I like it.
Gently touching me.
It feels good

Bent oak trees
With the Spanish moss hanging from
them, gently glowing in the breeze.
It makes them look rustic.
I like to sit and look-
just at all the beauty it can create.

The sun shining on my
Paper reminds me of all the warmth
In the world.
The wind lets me feel open - free.
An ant takes all my lonesomeness away.
Cold damp ground helps me feel secure.
But here comes someone.
Will he become my friend and
Let me share this with him?

-Jeanette Drake

The wind is blowing soft and free,
Listen...

Listen to the birds singing
Soft and free.

-Linda Squires

As a cool breeze blows and
Slowly the mist rises over the lake,
I feel as if a veil is being lifted.
I can see things I never saw before.
I feel as though I'm being reborn
Into a world I never dreamed so beautiful.

-Susie Karash

The wind can blow
The wind can die
But even though the wind goes away
Don't worry yourself, it will be back
Some other day.

-Rodney Wilkerson

Lily pads gently drifting
Down the lake
While the refreshing Autumn
Breezes rustle leaves.

-Teresa Ryan



Creatures

Ode to an Ant

Oh tireless little Brother
You work to find the others
You toil all day
In many a way.
Some people they say
We should keep you away.
There's only one way
It's Mirex they say.
If they have their way
We get no say.
We need you like all others
Oh tireless little Brother.

-Ernest Bostelmann

The Gator

I had a little gator
That wouldn't lay an egg
So I poured hot water down her leg.
The little gator begged
The little gator prayed
The little gator layed a hard boiled egg.

-Fred Bohm

Blackbird

On a post under a tree
A large blackbird was
Staring at me.
I took a step and stopped to look.
He frowned at me
And his head shook.

-Susan Seybold

Butterflies

Butterflies...
quiet, constant motion
searching in the fields
flitting from flower to flower
probing for nourishment.
Even at rest...
a quickening pulsation
anticipates future movement.

-Belinda Perry

The air
The birds
The grass
The trees

The log I'm sitting on
The Sun through the mist
The bee about
My lizard
Oh where did he, or was it a she, go
Off in the grass
To join the ants.
The fat lazy ants.

-Rick Berrette

Spider

Lonely spider, spin your web
With its unstick radii and
Crossward gummy strands.
Wait for the fly
Who's flying by,
And catch him and strangle him
In your shiny web.
Carefully you watch your step
Sure to not trip and fall
Walk towards your stranded prey
And eat him or wrap him up
And hang him upon your strandish mantle.

-Vincent Roach



nature

I sit in the shade and listen; listen
to the sounds of the living;
the birds, the bugs as they fly,
the wind in the trees. I see
the tiny little flowers, I feel the
moss and the grass; it's all so
alive, real, but almost a dream.
There're so many little tiny
things that make up this big area,
this world. In the distance
I hear voices, I don't see the people
but I feel their presence.
I want to know them, want to
share this feeling, this place,
this love. I want to know them
and how they feel. I hope to share.

-Annette Coggins

As the butterfly flies
It looks so carefree
So it never has to cry
No slippers and no tears
Belike you and me

-Jerrill Tidwell

Earth Mother

Who are you with a baby between your
knees?

Your eyes look out across the marsh
Your ears hear the sounds of the
coot and gallinule

You smell the earth
You long to feel at one with the
ground on which you sit.

But who are you?

You come wrapped in the cares of
a world that shows you nothing
You deny your true feelings to
live in that world.

You feel yourself sinking under
the weight and cares of that world

How simple to be earth mother -
how peaceful

It is easier to be mother of all the
earth than to be the mother of man.

-Carla Palmer

I felt the sunshine
Lightly on my cheek.
I felt the cool and lovely caress
Of the shade trees at their very best.
I felt the wind blow
Coolly on my face.
Open up your heart,
Let Nature take its rightful place.

-Larry Hammer

The skies calm
The water clear
The sun shining
I am near.

-Anthony Reese

My spirit is free:
I feel as though any moment
I could lift my wings and fly:
I see a butterfly-
My freedom is as his!
I wish this feeling could last
forever.
If only everyone in the world
could have this as I.

-Claudia Cooper

As the butterfly flies
It looks so carefree
So it never has to cry
No wimpers and no tears
Unlike you and me

-Darrell Tidwell

Be thankful for what you can see
But if not sight, what?
Sound
Wind
Smell
Touch
All of these increase your awareness
But sight is more precious than most
So, look, see, observe - study.
While you can.

-John Tripp

As I sit here on this bench
I see things moving all around.
With the wind blowing through
my hair
I can still hear little animals
everywhere.
I see little ants running around
over the leaves, and down
in the ground.
On the ground are some little
berries that have fallen from
the trees where there is a
squirrel eating some nuts.
The forest is a nice place to be
For you can always feel free.
The birds and the butterflies
Fly very high
And the others roam all around.
But there's one thing good,
They are free.

-Denise Murphy

Trees standing tall
A quiet breeze
Blowing-
Creatures of all types
Socializing in their crazy ways
As the lazy sun hangs in the sky
Watching it all peacefully.

-Sandi Tyndal

Thinking, talking, looking at things
Sitting in quiet, hearing birds sing
Stop for an hour, a day, a weekend
The wounds of our earth to
sew up and mend...
The message is clear and not easy to do
We might lose all beauty before
we are through.

- Julia Tripp

I can't see how anyone
Could help but "dig"
A place where nature has
So much to give.
The sound of a bird in morning flight
The sound of a hoot owl late at night.
What person could ask for more
Than to be away from cars, horns and
and noisy stores.
It's the things of nature I wish to see
A happy person I wish to be.

-Bobby Cross

Just lay back,
Relax...
To be here is like in Wonderland.
The quiet sound of laughter.
Let the sun warm you.
The wind cool you.
You can think about the day's events...
You can think about what is to come.
Or...
You can, like me, think about someone.
Someone who is far away.
quietness...
thinking...
beauty...
Things that make this place
what it is.

-Elizabeth King

A place of beauty.
Could I have been here before?
Maybe years ago
In thought or song.
The place is within me
Yet quiet and still.
Sometimes I think I've lost it
But,
It's always been there.
It is times like now
When I see beauty in myself,
Not cluttered up by bright lights
or noise
But coming from inside to shine on
its own.

-Laurie Nagy

When you're in the forest you
feel so good.
The flowers and the trees
are all blowing in the breeze.
It's so quiet, and peaceful
all day.
And then at night it's the same way.

Doesn't it hurt to know that this
might all be changed one day.
Maybe the people of STEP might
save the day.

-Craig Anderson

The draped green hues that reside here
in casual repose
Can draw me back to a time when
prehistory's power stalked here-
When the long trunks were the
armored necks of reptilian
competitors-
When the waving moss was quivering
ferns stirred by the breath
of long dead predators-
And not the passing of today's wind.

-Bill Redfern

Branches of trees,
Sway along with the breeze
in the warmth of a summer day.
While caterpillars crawl
in the morn of the dawn.

-Debbie Raho

Mushroom

Amber jewel
Glittering pool
of dew caught up in rising
Once just bark
fertile and moist
And now a diamond from nothing.

Almost hidden by brush
Now its gold leafing shines
Provided by nature to
Sooth mens' souls and open others eyes.

A cricket's home, a squirrel's meal,
a man's wonder, and nature's jewel.

An amber flow from under the oak
With the polishing dew making
the mushroom shine.

-Joe Petrulionis

I think myself very lucky
To see things as beautiful as these
The swaying of tree branches
The humming of the bees.

The tranquility of the water
With its glimmering, peaceful way
The current gently moving
Ever moving by the day.

The song of the bird calling
Loudly calling with all its heart
To its mate, least they be
Apart.

The warmth of the sun comes shining
through
Rays shining through the trees
Yes I am most lucky to see things
As beautiful as these.

-Melanie Wink

I have before me:
the world
of the wood
trees and the grasses
of the lake
lily pads on
glistening waters
float
friends surround me
not people, not faces
the wood and the lake
one of nature's best places.

-Linnie Hanford

Cedar drifts lazily through the
air, my nostrils trap the
fragrance.
The greens of the forest suddenly
interrupted by screaming, yellow
buses.
The calls of the birds and wind
through the leaves are silent
next to noises; shouting, talking.
A leaf falls on my lap.
Nature litters her floor with
things of nature, meant to fall.
Man litters nature's floor with
ugly abominations created by
him destroying nature.
Life is often forgotten, its meanings,
its truths.
Time and worries have precedence.

-Shelly des Islets

Nature is a fresh cool morning
Where the sun shines on the
lakes and the shadows of trees
are among us.
Nature is a high flying bird as it
flies over all God's creations.
Nature is a bee as it goes from
flower to flower gathering pollen
to thrive on.
Nature is a large city with cars, buses,
trains and congested people.

What is nature? You decide.

-Bill Pyle

The morning light dances across the oaks
The fireflies slip back into their
hollows
You're awakened by the sound of lively
jokes
Breakfast - one by one you follow.

The birds sing
The squirrels play
The morning would bring a
bright new day.
The sun rises higher
The birds still sing
You gather wood for the evening fire.
What a beautiful thing to hear a
bee fly by
To smell the air
To see an eagle soar high

Is it fair?
To tear this down to build a road
or build a town.
Steal the lily from the toad?
Take the tree from the birds?

If so
They will not know
How much they lose.

I hope I never hear the news
That where before there was a tree
In reality there is no more.

-Joey Lewis

The sky is blue
The clouds are white
The sand and surf
Are oh so right.

It's beautiful
All this surrounding me
When a gentle breeze is glowing
Through the cypress trees.

You know the time is right.

-Neysa Tice

Tree fantasy
breathing
then down to roots center of tree
up tree
Out looking at limbs and leaves then

Bird fantasy
breathing
then flapping take off to
a place where things good things
happened
Fly land find a place you like.

-Linnie Hanford



Life

Why is life so short?
Maybe we move too fast
Or try too hard to make it last.

Should we sit down and
Enjoy what we've got
Or strive to get more?

Should we take away what nature gives
Or try to prolong it, help it live?

Should we help each other
Solve our problems
However immense they are?
And live together peacefully
Which is much better by far?

-Jim Bishop

Peace, a word without ending,
A place where beauty is one's
Own imagination,
Where life is too great to express,
And time is but a word that has
No meaning.

To find such a place is to
Explore yourself,
To know is to feel and dream.
Take time to find yourself.
It might be greater than expected.

-Tammy Kase

You may have forgotten
But I haven't a friend.
Filed away in my memory
To be kept forever
Are the loving and encouraging words
You spoke to me
So many times
When I needed them.
And now at those times
When I feel lonely and forgotten
I am reminded of your word
And am lifted up once more.

-Leanne Dahlstrand

The bell will ring,
The wind shall blow,
The birds will sing,
The trees shall grow.
Will these things I do know
Keep existing when we do go?

-Bennie Spurlin

I Listen to the music
The music of the birds,
I watch the dragonfly...
As he does the dance of life.

The wind rushes past me
Then stops...
It's an odyssey of life
And I am in the middle.

-Don Vidussi

Why do ants work so hard to build cities
Underground or in trees?
And why do they have the ability
To lift something many times
Their own weight and carry it
Long Distances.

Why? What is the purpose of life?
Why does life exist?

-Steve Voegelin

The serenity of love
Is it yours or is it mine
Can it be shared between us?
Or is it only serene to thyself.
Can it be taken away or is it not whole.
Will the love we share today disintegrate
with time.
Dreams are wonders of tomorrow-
Will our love become a dream
Of tomorrow asking for eternity?

-Lorrieann Goetz

Life?

Is it the hum of bee,
Or the shade of tree?
Is it fish that splash
Or a squirrel's fast dash?
Is it a spider with it's crawl,
Or an ant so small?
Is it the waves of the water
Or the sight of a playful otter?
Is it the sound of a snake
or the sparkle on the lake?
It's all this and more.
Take a look outside the door.

-Jeff

A million diamonds
set aglow,
The small ripples of the
silent flow.
Iridescent world hidden
in our own
Down deep within the
twilight zone.
The shadows and shapes
move silently by
Silver images as in their world
they fly.
Their forests sway in sweet
rhythmic beat
With the gentle current they
constantly meet.
In this world we don't
belong
We can enter
but not for long.

-Sheri Fueller



DAY'S END

Here I sit on a log from a tree
Thinking of a poem to come to me.
It has to be good and has to be sweet
And not to mention
It has to be neat.

But---

If this poem writing doesn't
Turn out to be a piece of pie,
At least no one can say-
I didn't try.

-Keith Smith

In the morning as the day begins
As of the sunrise,
To each and every
Day it lends.

To see the sun rise
Yes it is a sight.
But just as beautiful is
the sunset, at night.

As each day goes by
'til tomorrow ends,
The sun will rise
The sun will set.

Yes, we all know why.

-Anita Blackwelder

As the sun grows low in the sky
You get the feeling that you belong
As a part of this world.
Your mind wonders and you find
Yourself in a totally different world.

The water is calm
And you feel a sense of prolonged
Happiness.
But the day cannot go on forever
But will continue the next day.

-Jeff Tilton

ESA'S

Environmental Study Areas

1
Attempt to find an insect that has hidden himself in his habitat or a plant that has its own defense.

--Rudy Patton

You are a man or woman hunting in the wilds and about to fire the shot that would kill a wild animal (a deer), but before you fire you hear someone yell "Stop" in a loud voice. You discover that it is the deer speaking. What do you think it would say to you? What would you say to it? This is a good chance to discuss gun control vs. keeping animal populations in control.

--Ray Pendleton

Pick out some object in the surroundings. It can be a plant, a tree, an animal, an old log, anything. Take a few minutes to write down as many words as you can that seem to say what this object means or seems or is to you.

--William Pendola, Jr.

Blind-fold Walk: Choose partners. Decide which one is to be the leader and which one the follower. Everyone will have the chance to be both. Blindfold the follower. The leader takes his/her partner to 5 different trees. Get to know these trees so that when the blindfold is taken off you can go to those same trees.

--Belinda S. Perry

Take the group to the oak tree in the boys' camp and ask the members to sit in a circle around the base. Try to think about what the tree has lived through and if it could talk, what would it tell you.

--Joe Petralionis

2
Ask the kids to look for something in nature. Upon returning they will describe what they saw with gestures with their hands. It will be timed to see who can guess in the least amount of time.

--Kevin Waters

You are a group of explorers and have landed in a hitherto undiscovered land. There are no humans around, no edible animals and only plants that are questionable. Your store of food has run out and you must devise a way to find out what plants and what parts of them are edible.

--Vicki Weglowski

Have the participants examine and collect living organisms. Have each person discuss how each organism varies and its specific importance to man.

--Rodney Wilkerson

Go out and make a list of all plants and trees that have more than three uses.

--Melanie Wink

Everyone try to be a different animal and tell about the way of life and the environment your animal lives in, and what he eats.

--Anita Blackwelder

Let everyone lay flat on their back and look at the clouds to see how many different animals shapes there are.

--Anita Blackwelder

Take a group to the woods, blindfold one person at a time, take him to a bush, plant or tree. Ask him to feel it, smell it, then describe it while blindfolded. Try to guess the name.

--Craig Anderson

Take a group on a 1/4 mile hike. Ask them to notice the variety of animal and plant life. Use the SPICE approach.

--John Bent

Ask each person to find a spot from which to watch the clouds. Look for different animals and plants in the cloud formations. Discuss in a group what each person saw.

--Rick Berrette

Find and/or draw anything an animal uses as a home. Discuss how the animal might have made the home. Also discuss the relationship between the animal, its home and the environment.

--Jim Bishop

Ecology Relay: Number off into two teams. Each team will be given an object to find- (ex. team A - grass, team B - leaves). Each team member must find a different type of grass or leaf. The team that finishes first is the winner.

--Fred Bohm

Go into an area where human sounds are absent. Listen to the sounds of nature while lying back in the shade with eyes closed.

--Ernie Bostelman

Climb a tree, build a playhouse, and listen to the birds.

--Laurie Bostelman

Find an oak tree. Touch the tree with your head and feet all around. 1.) How are we like trees? 2.) What does a tree need or require for growth? 3.) What do we need? 4.) What do we give to a tree? CO2 5.) What does a tree return to us? Oxygen. 6.) How does a tree help to clean streams and rivers? Summarize.

--Susan Bostelman

Touch-Textures: Bring back for each of the following - slimy, hairy, smooth, rough, slick.

--Susan Bostelman

Name off evidence of man in your immediate environment. 1.) How has man improved the environment? 2.) How has man impaired the environment?

--Susan Bostelman

Go into a wooded area to examine a tree noticing all the different kinds of animals and plants living together. Notice how many things help the tree, hurt the tree, and make their homes in or on the tree.

--Jeff Brishwell

Take a group to a nice spot. Have them close their eyes and listen to the sounds - manmade and natural sounds. Which sounds were here years ago? What sounds are perhaps going to be here 10 years from now?

--Annette Coggins

Go to the dock by the lake. Close your eyes and concentrate on your breathing- how it goes in and out of your body. After relaxing like this, imagine you're at the root of a tree, then imagine you're climbing the tree observing the bark. Then imagine yourself in the branches and climbing to the top branch. Look all around.

5
Climb down. Ask those in the group to share how they felt and what they saw.
--Claudia Cooper

Take a class snorkeling to observe the wonders of marine life.
--Bobby Cross

Relating a mushroom to art. Look closely at a mushroom - notice the texture, patterns, colors.
--Sara Crouch

Find an insect or evidence of an insect.
1.) What is the insect? 2.) Where does it live? 3.) What kind of protection does it have?
--Michelle des Islet

Animal Communication: Have the group stand outside and listen for animal noises. What animals can you hear? What could they be trying to say to each other? Do you suppose the birds are chirping just because they are happy? What could a mother cat be saying when she licks her kittens? When do animals communicate the most? How do bees communicate? To tell where the flowers are?
--Jeanette Drake

Collect seeds. What plants did the seeds come from? How do the seeds travel from place to place?
--Kerry Evans

AW During the course of your lifetime you have had the opportunity to step on or, in other various ways, mutilate a pine cone. This time we'll examine the inside. Starting from the bottom, slowly take it apart noting the different parts.
--Sheri Fuller

6
Select something in nature. Put yourself in its place. Decide what language it would use. How would it dance and sing? Decide what you think it might do or want to say or represent.
--Lorrie Ann Goetz

Ask everyone to listen carefully for about two minutes. Explain which way is north. Blindfold each person individually. Ask him to discern which way north might be. Ask each person to listen, feel the direction of the sun, and remember what they hear.
--Larry Hammer

Ask each person to pretend they are a bird or tree - fantasize. Write haiku or cinquain about the fantasy.
--Linnie Hanford

Ask each person to pretend to be an animal. After 10 minutes ask each person to describe a day in the life of this animal as best they can. ex. "I am a racoon. I woke up this morning and..."
--Susan Karash

Discuss the ways some animals have evolved and yet are so close to their prehistoric ancestors. Find information on these animals - lizards, alligators, birds.
--Tammy Kase

Pick six flowers. Smell and feel each of them. Blindfolded, smell and feel them again and try to name them.
--Lindy Kerr

Look at the animals and life in the water compared to that on land. Note the differences. Note where the trees are, the water hyacinths, the ferns and snails.

1. Do the trees like water? Note the trees' overhang over the water.
2. What does the overhang tell you about the trees' water needs?
3. How wet are the ferns?
4. Why do the hyacinths bunch together?
5. Why are the hyacinths different colors?
6. Why is there so much moss?
7. How does moss grow?

--Beth King

Discuss how water erodes soil and how tree roots hold the soil together.

--Jeff Kosik

Describe ESA. Take the group into an open place to find insects, leaves, flowers, etc. Discuss why these things are located in that particular area.

--Lynda Squires

Take the group into a wooded area. Pair off. One member of each pair is blindfolded and led to a tree or plant. He must rely on his senses of touch and smell to distinguish the type of plant.

--Charles Laurel

Walk down the trail behind the girls' cabins and spot 5 things that contribute to the particular community; describe how they contribute. Which things are best suited to this environment?

--Joe Lewis

Briefly describe methods of survival. Talk about what natural foods to eat, how to build a shelter. Ex. pine nettle tea, heart of the palmetto, ants.

--Lance Milnes

Go to the water's edge. Observe the floating weeds and animal life of the weeds. Note the

adaptability of life to unusual situations.
--John Montgomery

Discuss where you would find insects in their natural habitat. Specifically, observe the gigantic spider web and spider down by the lake.

--Kim Mulder

Pollution: behind the girls' cabins notice the old stoves, shingles, etc. What would you do if you had the chance to do something about this problem?

--Denise Murphy

Pair up with someone you don't know very well. Talk for 5 minutes and learn as much as you can about the other person. Then each person looks for something in nature that reminds him of the other person. Explain why.

--Laurie Nagy

Snakes: inform people about snakes. Talk about how they are part of our environment. Some snakes are poisonous, but most are not harmful. Discuss how snakes kill other rodents and keep our environment balanced.

--Dan Netherton

Find a spot within the boundaries of the study area that you feel good about. Sit down, relax, close your eyes and listen for five minutes. Count the different sounds, smells. How far away can you hear? What do the smells remind you of? Write on a piece of paper or whatever how this activity made you feel.

--Carla Palmer

9

Ask each person to find an animal or insect and bring it back in 10 minutes. Ask each person to explain where the animal was found, what it eats, where it lives, what eats it.

--Debbie Raho

Have the people go outside to watch some flowers and the insects that are on them. Have them realize the relationships between flower and insect. Note how each insect is adapted differently for his own flower. Also see how the insects are attracted by the flower. Is there any competition between insects from certain flowers? How do the insect and flower benefit? I would choose the area near the lake because of the hyacinth blossoms and the yellow flowers.

--Richard Raione

Have all the kids go into the woods to find some kind of plant, animal or insect, but they can't talk or tell their friends what they saw. Upon returning, ask each person to act out what they saw without uttering a sound. Time each person - the one who has his animal guessed in the least amount of time wins.

--Bill Pyle

Have the students walk down the trail behind the girls' cabins. Describe different kinds of plants and the area they are in. Describe their similarities and differences.

--Bill Pyle

1. Sensitivity exercise - students form a tight circle with one student blindfolded with arms crossed in the middle. Student is pushed back and forth from member to

10

member. Builds trust.

2. Group picks a student up and elevates him above their heads. Participant observes from a different elevation.

3. Pairs of students are picked; one is blindfolded while other leads him to different objects to "see" with his hands.

--Bill Redfern

Bird Habitat: Find a place to observe birds. Note how they build their nests in different kinds of trees. Why do birds build in particular places? Safety. What do they eat? Nuts, berries, worms. Do their habitats help them escape from their enemies? Height, their ability to fly.

--Anthony Reese

Your ESA is anyplace where man has made his presence known. Try to explain the way it would have been if man hadn't been there. Was the way it was better for man? for nature?

--Vincent Roach

Have the group discuss what life they are observing in their ESA. They would be assigned a project on one of the things they discussed in order to explore observations in greater depth.

--Teresa Ryan

Have the kids find a pine cone and ask them to make an animal from the pine cone. Discuss how a pine cone develops and how animals feed off the seeds.

--Stacy Schmidt

Dig two holes, one under a decaying log and the other in the sunlight. Note the differences in the areas explored.

--Susan Seybold

Legend of the Date Nut Palm:

Once there was a small Hawaiian family consisting of a small boy and his parents. The family had been living on the island for many days and they had no food, water or shelter. When night came the family lay down under the date nut palm and went to sleep. During the night the boy had a dream. In his dream the date nut palm spoke to him in the form of a beautiful lady. She told him that if he split her bark he would have sweet liquid to drink to quench his thirst. The fronds, her lovely branches would provide the family with shelter. The fruit of her tree would give the boy and his family food to eat and for warmth her wood would be burned. Her bark itself would give his family clothes. In the morning the boy told his parents of the dream and what the beautiful lady had said. Then the boy and his parents followed the instruction and were able to remain alive.

1. What ways are trees used?
2. How many trees can you name that have more than one use?
3. Name three uses of trees around you right now.
4. How can you save trees today?
5. If you were a tree, what would hurt you most?

--anonymous