

Outdoor Fun



Inside...

- ❖ How to Have a **Perfect** Camping Trip
- ❖ Interview with *Dog Whisper* **Quinn Parker**
- ❖ Fun **Short Stories**
- ❖ The Truth about **LNT**

10

Years!



Dear Editor,

Hi, I'm Kennedy and I read an article from the last issue of The Backyard about the best spots to hike in the USA. I agree that the Smokey Mountains in Tennessee is a beautiful spot to hike. Speaking from experience the wild animals and the gorgeous scenery there makes it the perfect place for nature lovers. While hiking in the mountains, my family and I have spotted a rattlesnake, been followed by a black bear, and have traveled up and down the paths. I really enjoy your magazine and will keep reading!

From,

Kennedy S.

Dear Editor,

In your last issue you were talking about how dogs should be outside sometimes instead of staying in the house. You said it's not good for dogs to stay inside all the time, and I agree with you. My dog loves the outdoors and if she is inside for a while she gets depressed.

-Katarina Statezny

the animal cam!

This camera is for bird watchers and hunters. It captures videos and streams them live directly to your TV or device. Using the controller you can move the camera at any angle you want. It is specially made to sense movement, so even when you're away it will capture a video of anything that moves. Here are some pictures from animal cam users



BAD KITTY!

Pets

People have lots of pets, they are everywhere. They are a person's companion and friend. Most people have pets. Most people own a cat or a dog, but some people own a fish a frog a bird a hamster or other.

Dogs are a lot of fun to play with and snuggle with but like every pet they have the good and the bad. Dogs come in many sizes they can be as small as a Chihuahua or as large as a teenage kid. Dogs love to play like fetch and other outside games. On the other hand dogs do bark and jump on people unless you train them otherwise.

Cats are very loveable feline friends and they love to show lots of affection. Cats do not bark but love to play with a red laser or a bell or a ball of yarn. Most cats especially love to be scratched behind the ears. Cats only meow and shed unless you get cats that don't shed.

Hamsters, guinea pigs, and mice are small pets that run around in a cage and can be taken out to hold or pet. Hamsters are fun to have in a ball and roll around the room in

or you can put wheels in their cages and watch them go around and around. Guinea pigs love to eat clover in your lawn they would eat it all day if they could. Mice love to run around and eat treats. Most mice love to be held too.

Fish, frogs, and reptiles are kind of hard to hold and pet some pet frogs can't be taken out of water. They are lots of fun to watch crawl or swim around in their cages.

If you don't have a pet I



think you should get one. So choose the right one for you.

They have many benefits, like they cheer you up on a bad day, or are great friends to talk to. If taken care of, they will be the best friend you will ever have!

Best Backpack

Has your backpack ever it seemed like killed your back? I know many of people that have felt that! Get the new multi-task backpack that is light as a feather. Great for camping, school, and just long days when your not at home.



**Call today at
205-493-870
and get a free
water bottle
and a ticket to
camp at the
great Jimmy
Jane!**

We all know that you should never leave anything behind when you go camping, but most people don't know how to or to what extent. Leave no trace (or LNT) is important to know no matter where you are camping, and this article will show you how and why.

LNT begins as soon as you get to your campsite. First of all, don't use tinfoil when cooking unless you plan to bring it with you, along with grease, bones, and any other food leftovers. When you make a fire, don't use sticks off of live trees. Pick-up sticks and bark from the ground or from fallen trees. It is the same with leaves, acorns, and needles. Never use gasoline or any kind of fire starting liquid to start your campfire. It will both soak into the ground and make your food taste extremely bad. The stuff is just bad in general for you and the environment.

When you have to nature pee or poop, make sure that you 1) get as far away from the campsite as possible as not to attract animals, and 2) bury your poop in a hole that is approximately 6 inches wide, 6 inches across, and 6 inches deep.

When you brush your teeth, use toothpaste that is either not going to harm the environment or you are able to swallow it, since it could attract animals if you spit it out.

After you eat, do not clean your dishes in a body of water. Instead, you should wash them with purified water that you brought and also with an unexpected element in the woods. Dirt. Dirt has a type of bacteria that naturally decomposes food and other stuff.

For silverware, you can just stick it into the soil and move it up and down until the food is off of it, then rinse it in water. You can wash them completely when you get home, but in nature, this is the best environmentally friendly washing you can do.

When cleaning up food, you should never bury extra food or food scraps. It will attract animals to the campsite and it might not decompose properly and will smell really bad. Always bring food scraps, peels, skins, or any food related item with you no matter what.

Never leave any wrappers or containers at the site. Animals might smell it, find it, and suffocate the animal or cause harm to it in some sort of way. Also, most food wrappers/containers don't decompose for many years, making it a hazard in general. Not to mention, finding old wrappers and things when camping is just gross in general.

When leaving the campsite, never, ever, ever, no matter what, leave ANYTHING at the campsite no matter what. It is a hazard for animals and the environment together, as well as being completely irresponsible. Littering and anything related to it is illegal and could be punishable by a fine, or in extreme circumstances, jail. That's right. You might not think about that Twinkie wrapper when you carelessly throw it in the woods, but it will be one of the only things you'll think about in your jail cell.

Overall, just don't leave anything behind. Practice good LNT and don't have to deal with the consequences involved without it.

The Day with the Trainer

By: Rosalie Starkweather

A few weeks ago I talked to an amazing dog trainer named Quinn Parker. She owns a business called Sniff, Wagg, Bark on Main Street. I asked her what it like is to see dogs every day. Being brought in and transforming a naughty little rascal to something completely different.

Quinn Parker replied, " I think it's so cute to have little puppies and sometimes bigger dogs come in and feel good about themselves. Sometimes I can see that it's hard for them at first but then after a while they understand and they feel amazing when they got it accomplished!"

What are some of the top tricks that you and your people use to train dogs?

"The big thing is, is to give them lots of praise along with treats. If you don't give praise then nothing is going to happen. They might think that they are doing something wrong and they won't do what they just did. Another trick I have is to have a playtime in between sessions. The last trick is to build up on session time. I suggest first start off 2-5 minute sessions, have play, then resume the training again."

I asked her if I could have a tour she gladly gave me one. We walked around and it's a remarkable place. She had many

sections for dogs and their treats. In the main walk in area they have a dog bakery with homemade cookies and cakes for dogs. They looked so good I could eat it for myself!

After we passed the bakery we went to



the biggest training area there was in the building. There was bigger breed dogs in that one. I loved how the set

up was! As we walked in the next building and this one was for small breed dogs. They had a few more small rooms for storage and the extra treats and toys to use for training. My rate on Sniff, Wagg, and Bark is 4 out of 5. It's an amazing place. It gets the job done and the training is amazing from what I heard from the costumers.

As I was leaving I decided to get some cute treats for my two big puppies at home. At the counter I seen a sign that said thirty percent of profit goes to the Human Society. I think that's a great thing to do. So forget that rating of 4! It's 5 out of 5! I suggest this place highly. I believe every dog lover would enjoy this place!

Sarah's Skiing Story

By: Maddie Schuetz

Sarah is going cross country skiing with her family during the weekend, Sarah was so excited! She put her jacket and her cross country shoes on, and was ready to leave. Sarah hopped into her car with her family; it wasn't that long of a drive to Muddy Hill Woods. Sarah clicked on her skis and started to ski with her family.

"Hey look, a bald Eagle!" says Sarah.

"Cool!" says her little brother Tommy. Sarah got distracted she skied off trail and got lost.

"Oh no, where am I?" Sarah looked all around her and all she saw was trees, trees, and even more trees.

She got so scared and so worried she started to cry. Sarah tried calling for her family and she didn't get any response.

"Luckily it's not dark out." Sarah thought. She remembered what her dad said "If I ever get lost stay right where I am." So Sarah stayed right where she was.

After an hour of waiting and praying, Sarah heard her family calling her name she was so happy. Sarah followed their voices and found them.

Sarah gave her family a big hug, and started skiing through the woods but this time Sarah was in the middle of the line not

the back! Sarah talked all the way back to the car.

On the way home Sarah told her family that she got distracted and told her dad that she listened to what he said if you ever get lost stay where you are and don't move.

Sarah said "This wasn't my favorite skiing trip but it was definitely a memory".



Many people go camping. Most of them go several times of year and even out of state sometime. My job though, is to tell you what camping in Glacier; actual Waterton Glacier International Peace Park is like. This article on glacier is mostly about some of the many fun things to do. Now enjoy.

First we'll start with getting to the campsite. When you go to Glacier, you can't reserve campsites in the park. You can't get a campsite until about 11, and that's if there's any open. The one that we stayed at was on the Going to the Sun road and was called Rising Sun campground. It had a beautiful view of the valley and was secluded, but you were next to other campers though at times it felt like you were a mile away from them.

One of the first things we did when we got there was obviously set up the tent and got all of the sleeping bags and other things in the tent in the right spot. Since the sun was setting we went on the Going to the Sun road. It was really spectacular seeing all of the sun's last beams bounce off the mountains, cars, waterfalls, snow, and glaciers. A picture wouldn't be able to capture it; only a painting by an amazing artist would.

Since I can't remember how everything goes, this won't be in order, but hopefully it will show you all the wonders of Glacier. Now here is some fun things you're going to want to put on your agenda:

Waterfalls- I'm sorry if you don't think waterfalls would be a big attraction, but some of them are some of the most spectacular things in Glacier. When you think waterfalls you think one or two scattered around on some back road. Nope. Glacier has them everywhere. The Going to the Sun road has them all over along the road. Some will be a little bit off the main road while some are practically on the road. There are also waterfalls sometimes on hiking trails. I know on the Garden Wall (mentioned later) when you go on it in earlier summer they're waterfalls crossing the trail. In spring you can't even go on it because it is still frozen over or there is too much water going across the trail.

Hiking- There are many hiking trails. Some are short hikes to waterfalls while others are 12 miles long. I'm not going to mention all of the short trails, but I will mention 2 trails that stuck out in my mind from my trip to Glacier. One of them was the Garden Wall.

Garden Wall-That trail started at Logan Pass and the first about half mile was almost straight down for at least 150 feet. So you would fall off there was old hose drilled into the mountain wall. The rest of the way, if not straight down, it was super steep. The Garden Wall ended then at 1 of 2 working original chalets in Glacier. Chalet- a herdsman's hut in the Swiss Alps; A kind of farmhouse, low and with wide eaves, common in Alpine regions; any cottage, house, ski lodge, etc., built in this style. Then to get down from Granite Peak chalet,

unless you want to hike about the 10 miles back, you would hike down the 4 mile trail to the Going to the Sun road where you would get shuttled back up to Logan Pass. Along the actual Garden Wall trail, there were several short trails, a mile, but usually less, for views of a glacier or of the valley. Overall it's a fun hike even though it seems like it just goes on and on forever.

Sperry Chalet Hike- if you're a slow hiker and don't have reservations at the chalet (must be done in December the second booking starts, after about 10 to 15 min. it's booked full), do not go on this hike. The hike up to the chalet is about 6 miles long and goes up about 1,000 ft. in elevation. It has a lovely view of Lake McDonald at the West exit. You can also hike up to the chalet and then hike to the glacier Sperry which is about a 3 mile hike from the chalet. If you also have problems with your knees, other problems hiking, old, or some other reason that causes you to have problems hiking, you can ride horses

up to the chalet. If you're scared of riding horses don't be. You will be taught how to and the horses that bring up the supplies are tied together so they will not dodge in front of you. Warning: you cannot get off the horses to go pee or take a break during the whole 2 hour ride. Be warned.

I'm sorry we can't talk longer on Glacier, but time is coming short. If possible, go to Glacier sometime. It doesn't matter if you're old or young, wise or foolish, disabled or enabled, there's something for everyone. A wise man named Joe E. Lewis once said:

You only live once,

But if you live right,

Once is enough.

So go find your spirit. You may not know it, but the spirit of nature is right outside your door. So go find it. We know this; Joe E. Lewis once said: you live only once. So make that once count

Hiking Up Stream

By: Rosalie Starkweather

I wasn't really sure about going in the first place, but my friend convinced me I had to do it. I signed up as the clipboard went around. I scribbled my name on there and then, when dismissed, I left. I walked with my friend and she brought up the topic. "You're going to be fine. Hiking is just like talking a stroll down the park."

I replied, "You go out all the time and camp and hike. Me, I prefer my bed and a shelter." I paused "What do I even pack anyway?"

Katie replied, "We will just have to go get the list. It's on the bulletin board."

The week went by like it was only one day. We arrived at the pickup and then we drove off on the scary adventure. We were dropped off, and to me in the middle of nowhere. I didn't like it. We started off in the scary adventure at five fifteen. The chaperones said we really need to put out our stuff and go to bed because we have a long day ahead of us tomorrow.

It was getting dark slowly but I thought we would be able to make it. It felt like I was walking forever. I yelled out, "How much more do we need to walk?" No reply... I started freaking out. I had no idea what to do. I was out in the middle of nowhere in the middle of the night!

I always have heard the statement hug a tree. But there were too many around to pick which one. So I continued walking back where I remember coming from. If I'm lucky I might be able to see where they stopped. My walking had turned into jogging. Everything looked the same! I thought I was just wandering in circles like a lost dog.

I was so scared, I was alone. I got back to the place we started. I sat down and looked through my bag to see what I had. I was so happy at that moment when I realized I had brought a blanket. Right when I snuggled down I heard a whole bunch of yelling. I sat up quickly. They were running my way. I stood up and ran to my friend.

Katie whispered, "I was so worried! How did you get lost?"

"That's a good question." I pondered.

The whole class decided it was late so we pitched our tents there and stayed the night right where I was sitting.

In the morning we started off on our way. I thought it looked so beautiful outside. I loved seeing the birds and listening to the quiet nature sounds. I never knew it was so peaceful.

"Told ya you'd love it," Katie said as she punched my arm playfully.

I smiled. She was right. I was glad to get out of the rush of the city.

Camping

By: Carson Buss

I have always enjoyed going camping with my family. Here are some tips that we do when we go on our camping trips.

Checklist

The first thing we do is go to the grocery store to make sure we have food for camping. We tend to get stuff that we can grill-out with and also get little snacks for throughout the day. When we get our groceries we put them in our cabinets in our camper otherwise if you are using a tent you could put the items in a cooler. After the food we get our clothes and our necessity ready and put them in a luggage bag. You don't want to pack a lot of stuff when you go on camping trips. When you are done packing all of this you could start packing blankets or pillows and maybe even a sleeping bag if you are sleeping in a tent. Also don't forget mosquito spray!

Car Games

If you are driving to a place that may be far away in may be a fun idea to play car games with your family. One of my favorite games is the License Plate Game. I have always enjoyed this game and it is a very fun and enjoyable game to play. Some other games you could play include 20 questions, I Spy, and Name that Tune if you are listening to the car.

My Camping Experiences

I have probably been camping since I was just a baby and I have a lot of experiences! One experience that has been the one that has stuck out to me so much was probably when I went to Vista Royale campground in Bancroft, WI. This experience sticks out to me because of what happened.

I was in my camper with one of my little cousins and we were messing around on one of the bunk beds in my camper and she accidently pushed me and I fell and ended up breaking my toe. My mom and dad had to take me to the nearest hospital and I ended up getting a cast and I could barely do anything at all the whole time I was there!

Here is a free cut-out camping checklist!

<u>Camping Checklist</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Toothbrush
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clothes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sleeping Bag
<input type="checkbox"/>	Food
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Bottle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mosquito Spray
<input type="checkbox"/>	Towels

Unplugging to Recharge By Greg Hall

My fondness for the outdoors began at an early age from endless hours exploring the woods across from my home. My childhood woods provided the kind of adventures found in a Swiss Family Robinson novel. It was here where I found excitement and joy. It was here where I felt alive.

Three decades later I still have quite the fondness and affinity to the outdoors; however now for quite different reasons than before. Now, I seek the outdoors to relax, reflect, and recharge. Granted there is still the little kid in me that will skip a rock or climb a tree, but more than not I enjoy my time there relaxing and soaking in all the outdoors has to offer.

Once my wife Sarah and I joined proverbial rat race of adulthood we found ourselves spending less and less time in the outdoors. Having been blessed to spend our college summers in pristine wilderness areas, we were not content with becoming the weekend warriors of camping. We decided that a week to two week immersion that required us to unplug from our phones, e-mails, and schedules was what our souls needed. It was that summer that we began the annual “unplug to recharge” adventures.

Remaining true to our mission of unplugging to recharge, our adventures most often took us to a canoe wilderness area. One of our favorite outdoor places to recharge is the Quetico Canoe Wilderness Area in Canada. Equipped only with our

canoe, food packs, and camping equipment we would spend a week to two weeks paddling pristine glacial lakes and camping beneath dark, star filled skies. Granted there are many that would not consider being void of TV, the internet, phones, and the comforts of home to be anything shy of torture, but to my family and I this time was therapeutic. It is also important to note that thinks are not as rough as they sound. Equipped with my Dragonfly white gas stove and the Outback Oven we enjoy homemade pizzas, blueberry scones, and fresh made fish that marvels any ever enjoyed out on the town. Our hammock has been known to result in some of the best afternoon naps ever.

We each have our thing that we find most rewarding and relaxing. My fathers, who we now invite on our adventures, find great pleasure in fishing out of canoe. My wife Sarah finds great pleasure in paddling, portaging, and reading. My boys love swimming, throwing rocks into the water, and more swimming. I find great joy in cooking, taking photos, and reflecting. Despite all having different ways of enjoying our immersed time in the outdoors, we all leave our time recharged, reconnected, and ready for the next “unplugged to recharge” adventure.

