

# Nature in the North



Inside!

summary of the new  
book *The Sisters and the  
Forest*  
by: Lauren Stae



Get the new ultimate  
tent! see inside  
for details

Hiring editor: Rick Marcusen



Dear Readers,

My name is Rick Marcusen, and this is my very first *Nature in the North* magazine as head editor. This magazine was made to help people learn about nature and animals, and to try to show people how important it is to protect our environment so that our children and our children's children will still have nature to enjoy.

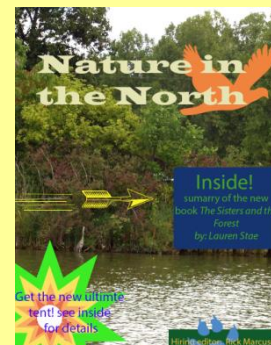
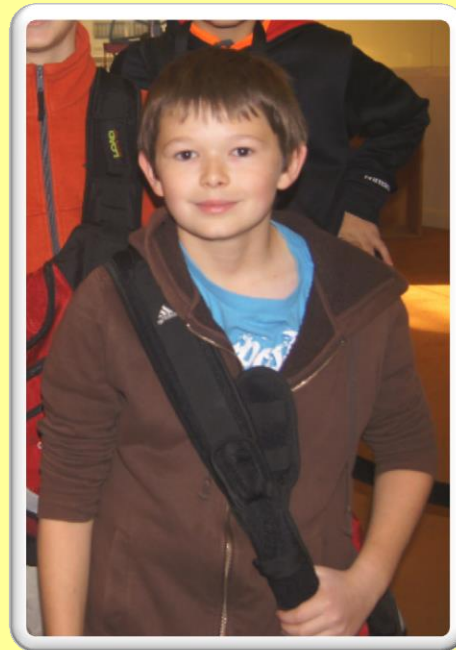
My experience with making this magazine was actually pretty good. At first, I didn't really like the idea of making a magazine or writing for someone else, because I personally never really liked writing, but as the project progressed I began to like it more and enjoy the work that I was doing, but I did have some troubles finding the work that other people did for me. It all worked out well in the end.

Now, you may be wondering about me, seeing as most of you have most likely never heard of me before, so I'll tell you a bit about myself. I currently live with my parents and my older sister. I also have one cat named Oliver, whose favorite pastimes are hissing at people, laying in front of doorways, and following me around begging for food. The people in my family who influenced my liking of nature the most are probably my Grandpa's. Both of them are really big

on hunting and fishing, and they both know a lot about plants and animals.

Some random facts about me are that my favorite food is pizza with barbecue on top, I am a deputy black belt in Tae Kwon Do (my black belt testing should be in a few months), I had a pet turtle, I love acting, and I'm a percussionist in my school band and I have a really big rock collection. Also, I attend Fox West Academy in Hortonville Wisconsin and I went to Washington D.C. in the fall and it was AWESOME. Some facts about my family are that my sister went to New York with her choir and she got to sing in Carnegie Hall with a famous conductor, my mom and dad owned a Blimpies sub shop before I was born, and that my parents named my first cat Valentine, but he turned out to be a boy.

This issue of *Nature in the North* has lots of new material on great natural places in North America and lots of other great new things and I hope that you enjoy.



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Dear Editor,

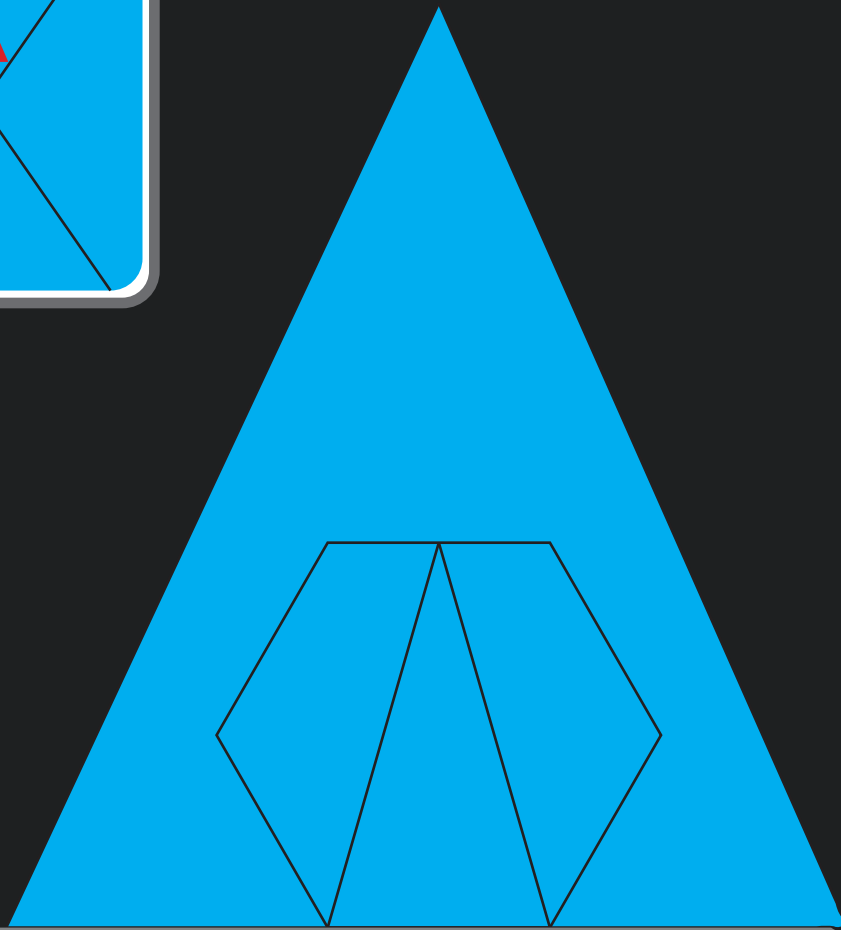
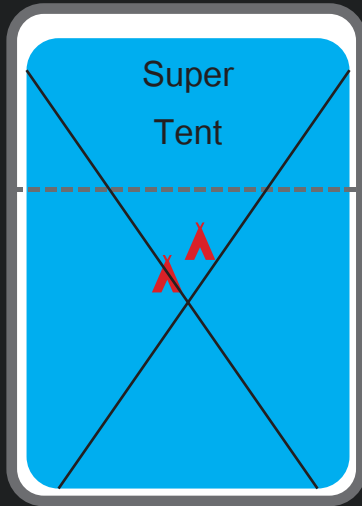
I really liked how you focused your article on nature instead of games or technology in general. It's nice to see someone care about the environment for a change. Keep up the good work for all your readers.

Sincerely: Garrett Paap

As someone who loves watching birds, your Quick and Easy Ways To Make Bird Houses. I now have double the birds coming to my house daily. I have spotted three new bird species. Thanks Rick your magazine is very helpful.

# Super Tent

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## Glacier National Park

Not too long ago, I visited Glacier National Park. It was a very pleasant experience. The park was well kept but still felt natural and earthy. The trees there showed no signs of disease or distress, and the animals were plump and were happy, healthy animals.

I stayed in a quaint little cottage outside of the park, complete with Wi-Fi, a TV, and a fireplace. It also had bikes so you could pedal your way to all the scenic sights in the park, or to the convent grocery store a half a mile away.

While we were there, I often got up early to see sunrise. The mountains are beautiful, but sunrise is their crowning glory. The way the warm rays slide up over the ridges, and the smell of the dew makes you wonder, is it Earth or Heaven?

A huge attraction for the park is the Going-to-the-Sun Road. This road makes you feel, well, like you're going to the sun. It zig-zags through the mountains with its highest point, Logan Pass, at 6,646 feet.

But be careful! The elevation hints the possibility of water, rocks, or the occasional animal that will wander on the road. Also, make sure those headlights are working! Being so high up, there is also a chance you can drive through a cloud.

Once you get to the visitor center, there are all kinds of things you can buy, like postcards, magnets, and pins. But the thing I paid most attention to was the snow.



You see, I took my trip in July so seeing snow in July was quite thrilling... and cold! I suggest bringing a jacket and a wind breaker because it is not only cold, but extremely windy!

For you who like adventure, here is something for you. After a short hike from the visitor center we found not only a beautiful hidden lake, but lunch trays. Now, I know you are probably thinking *what can you do with Lunch trays?* Well, slide down the mountain of course! Not too far, or you will slide into the lake.

But not all of the fun is high up. Nestled in-between the mountains is some of the prettiest valleys and prairies you will ever see. They are filled with many different flowers and plants such as Alpine Flowers, or Bear Flowers.

Don't neglect the Canadian part of Glacier! I saw more wildlife in the Canada, actually. I took a hike by Glacier Lake and saw several Caribou, and even a black bear cub! (Make sure to stay far away, especially with cubs)

Overall, I think that Glacier is a well-kept park that really cares about the wild life in it. I really recommend visiting it!

By: Anna Gorski

# Wolf Ridge Trip Experience

Man, that was the funnest 3 days of my life when I went to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center. There is so much to talk about so that's why I'm writing this article.

## **Northwest Mammals:**

At first, I thought this class was going to be the downside of the trip; ABSOLUTELY NOT! We got an animal card and got to play a game with while learning what they are what they eat and stuff. Then we play a game called "Oh Deer". It's where the group splits in two, half becomes deer and the other half becomes habitat. Then both groups turn around. The deer either act like they need water, food, or shelter. Then the habitat either are food, water or shelter. Then the leader yells "Oh Deer!" and everyone turns around. Then the deer run to find what they need from the shelter people. If a deer doesn't get what they need, they become shelter. After that was done, we went down 249 steps to the forest. We walked to three sent posts. There we found secret cameras, foot prints of animals and HORRIBLE smells. Although the smell was bothering, it was cool to see the footprints of animals that had been there and try to find out what they were.

## **Superior View Hike**

This was the most memorable part of the trip. Although it was a walk, it was DEFINITELY worth it. One reason was that we had the best guide, Mllo. He played a game with us where we had to guess which song he was whistling to. The second reason was of the nature around us. So many trees and stunning

views. If I could go back there again, I would still be amazed

## **High Ropes Course**

High ropes by far was the most awesome and scariest thing of the whole trip. When I first got on the course, there was a long bridge, not that hard. But next, was a 1in rope in diameter and all you had to hang on to was your "ponytails" (straps) or the two guard rails. Pretty freaky! Then came another easy obstacle, the double log. After I cleared that came the hardest part of the hole course. It was the 1 in diameter rope except no guard rail this time. Only little ropes called cherries and your ponytails. That took me at least 30 seconds to go across but then I finally got to the last obstacle, the single log. It was a relief from the part before it. Then came the fun part, the ZIPLINE!! It was scary platform but after I took the jump off, I was screaming  
WWWWWWWWWWHHHHHHHHHHAA  
AAHHHHHHHOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!  
! all the way down.



# Wolves Way of Life

Wolves have a very fascinating way of life. It is just great to watch baby wolves grow up to be an adult. Wolves when they are just born they are called pups and they are born blind and deaf and are extremely light like soda can pop light. Pups are usually born in late April so in April you will see an increase in the wolf population. The only thing they know how to do when they are first born is to get milk. It takes about a month for the babies to actually be able to see and hear and weigh about ten pounds. At two months of age they only eat meat. The parents and sometimes 1-2 year old siblings will bring back food to the den. By three months of age pups travel a few miles to meet their mothers and fathers and wait for them to return from their hunt to feed the little pup. Pups that survive to about 6 to 7 months of age will get their adult teeth and



first leaves the pack their goal is to find a mate from another tribe. Most wolves decide to live in a pack and have the extra protection but some wolves decide to go on their own and decide to not go into a pack.

Packs always have a leader and the leader is called an Alpha wolf and they lead their pack and tell them when to fight or not to fight. To become an Alpha a wolf challenges the Alpha to a fight if the challenger wins he becomes Alpha but if the Alpha wins the wolf is sent away from the pack.



will be 80% of their full size.

When some wolves become 12 months of age they disperse their pack and some when 22 breed with another wolf. When the wolf



## Information on Tarantulas

tarantulas are arachnids they have eight hairy legs and two giant fangs in front of their mouth. the two front legs are actually used to warn other predators to leave him alone. it has eight eyes on top of its head it can see 180 degrees around. there are many types of species of tarantulas. one is the trap door spider, wolf spider, blue spider, and desert spider. some tarantulas can grow up to 2 feet wide. some tarantulas are poisons with venom. tarantulas suck all the blood from their victims and throw the rest out.

By: Jacob G

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The Sisters and the Forest By: Lauren Stae

One day, Jami and her sister Leelee went on a journey to the magical forest of Fairitopia on their way to Walla Walla, Washington. Jami and Leelee were only supposed to be gone for 6 days. The journey was going great, until they ran into a tree full of devil fairies. Devil fairies are really bad fairies. They have glowing red eyes and piercing wings. The devil fairies chased Jami and Leelee halfway through the forest. Eventually, they lost the fairies. They were relieved. Jami and Leelee continued their journey. After about 20 minutes of walking, Jami and Leelee found a bush full of Angel fairies. Angel fairies are cousins to the devil fairy but are opposite in personalities. The angel fairies wanted to help Jami and Leelee on their journey. They wanted to give them tasty foods and helpful goods. The queen angel fairy, Maria, was especially helpful. She gave them a place to bathe and eat. Soon Jami and Leelee realized it was time to move on. They thanked them and continued on through Fairitopia Forest. The sisters moved slowly through the treacherous forest. They were only on their third day and were already exhausted.

"I'd hoped we would have seen more sights!" Jami said. She continued, "I figured we'd see sparkling lakes and flowing rivers maybe a hill or two, but all we've seen is mud, grass, trees and birds. Lots and lots of birds!" Jami exclaimed.

"I don't know what you want me to do" said Leelee. Just as they finished complaining to each other, they came

across a shimmering lake. Flying just above the beautiful, clear water were hundreds of shimmer fairies! Jami and Leelee's jaws drop in awe. All at once and all of a sudden the shimmer fairies plunged into the water. They dived in so gracefully and quickly you would have missed it if you blinked. Then abruptly a short, stout man with shaggy black hair appeared and shouted "Howdy! If you were not already aware, I am Greg, Fairitopia's tour guide instructor! These are the famous shimmer fairies and you have just experienced the wonderful 'Shimmering Plunge'. It only happens twice a year when all fairies hum- this little sweet noise they make in-sync".

Greg left as fast as he appeared. As soon as Greg left, Jami noticed one very sparkly tree. The tree then shouted in a very high pitched voice,

"Hi, I'm Michaela, the sparkle tree". Right next to Michaela, sprouted a short, purple tree. The purple tree shouted in a normal pitched voice,

"Hi, I'm Kacey, the purple tree". One more tree sprouted up. It stood shorter than the other trees, and the leaves were drooping. The tree then shouted in a very low voice,

"Hi, I'm Krista the stressed, depressed, and fabulously dressed tree". "Are you guys lost," asks Michaela while she sprinkles glitter everywhere?

"We're trying to get to Walla Walla, Washington to see the koala named Paula," Leelee said.

"Just follow us. We know exactly where to go," Michaela replied.

"Okay! Thanks," Jami said excitedly.





Jami, Leelee, Michaela, Kacey and Krista started their journey to Walla Walla, Washington to see Paula the koala. During their journey, they passed a river. A river almost as clear as the shimmering lake where they met the shimmer fairies. There were many types of fish in this river, but stood out, it was a long fat fish that had a horn sticking out of the top of its head. It was a unicorn fish! The unicorn fish followed them down the river until they reached the waterfall. The unicorn fish said her name was Elise. Elise told them to be careful of the pterodactyl nest ahead. The group thanked Elise and then headed on their way.

It wasn't the pterodactyl nest that was their problem, it was a bunch of squirrels that had escaped from the insane squirrel asylum. The squirrels were rabid and crazy! While they were trying to escape the squirrels they came upon a hole in the ground. The group jumped into the hole and realized that there was a village down there. It was run by evil moles who were controlling the good moles into doing all of their digging. The group ran through the village so they wouldn't get controlled as well.

After finding their way out of the evil mole village, they found a green meadow to sit down and eat. While they were enjoying their picnic they heard a loud screech from the sky. It was a pterodactyl! They couldn't believe their eyes! They tried to run away but they were too slow and the pterodactyl swooped down and grabbed the group. They were terrified!!!

The pterodactyl carried the group of new friends to Walla Walla, Washington so they could meet Paula the koala. They had no idea that the pterodactyl had overheard them singing the Paula the Koala song. The pterodactyl decided to

do a nice deed and carry them to Walla Walla, Washington. They had no idea what was happening at first. They screamed in fear until he set them down in Walla Walla, Washington. His name was Michael. He explained to them that he was just trying to help them and save them from any other dangers up ahead. Jami and Leelee finished their journey and headed for home. When they got back home they had told the whole town about the amazing adventures they had had. Everyone thought they had hit their heads because their adventures sounded so crazy!

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desert that only some people know about.

the good thing about the desert is there is a lot of people who travel there to look at the animals.

The plants and even the natives some deserts have natives who live there and the natives also like tourism.

Some despise them because they think it's bad for the animals.

That's the habitat for you, you should go sometime.

a lot of animals dig for grubs or hunt at night in the desert a lot of animals that live there hunt at night because of the hot weather.



there are a lot of plants to a lot of cactus and a lot of animals drink and eat from cactus. the desert also makes homes for a lot of animals. mostly a lot of holes all over the desert the desert is a dangerous place and a lot of things happen in the

By Zack O.

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## Poop

(a true story)

After canoeing for about five hours, the campers were exhausted and looking for a campsite that was open, since, by then, most of them were taken. After looking at eight different ones, they found one big enough to share with another group.

It was hard the past few days setting up and taking down camp everyday for the past four days, especially since the group consisted of Marissa, Charlotte, Olive, Rachel, and two counselors. Marissa had a fractured arm, Charlotte had a sprained ankle, Olive was lazy, and Rachel just wasn't an outside person (she actually brought a sequin covered sleeping bag; she was cold).

After setting up both tents, collecting a stack of sticks about four feet tall, purifying two gallons of water, setting up a tarp to hold their stuff under, putting a rope between two trees two hang our soaking socks on, and spending about a half hour trying to fix the zipper on the tent, they started a campfire to cook their food over.

After eating dinner, they started to make dessert. That dessert happened to be the most delicious of delicacies ever created: scrambled brownies mixed with magic pieces (m&m's) cooked in a frying pan. The only problem was, they were almost out of wood. Charlotte, Olive, and Marissa went into the woods surrounding them to get wood, and came back with enough wood for dessert and breakfast the next day.

About half-way through preparing the brownies and burning some of the wood to keep the fire going, a terrible smell started to spread through the small campsite. After about twenty minutes of searching for the source, they discovered what they thought was animal poop on the bottom of Charlotte's shoe. They also discovered poop on the wood, some of which they had already burned. After freaking out, and being relieved that they hadn't cooked the brownies on top of poop wood, the campers waited to start the brownies while Charlotte washed her shoes off in the lake.

The next day, Marissa was the first one to wake up, and she had to go to the bathroom, so she got her shoes on quietly and got out of the tent. She nearly threw up. Through the night, the smell of poop had gotten about twenty times as bad. *That is not normal for animal poop*, Marissa thought. She then came to the realization what the smell really was, but she wasn't sure, so she decided to think about it while she went to the bathroom. Marissa was walking through the woods for about five minutes to find a spot, then realized that, as she walked farther away from the site, that the smell was getting stronger. *That's weird*, she thought, but she found a spot and after doing that, she spotted a mound of brown about ten feet away from her with flies almost completely covering it. She realized her previous assumption was correct and ran back to the tents.

Several people were awake, except for Rachel, of course, and the other group of campers were starting a fire with the wood from the night before. "DON'T USE THAT WOOD!" she yelled. They looked at her funny and asked her why not. "It has poop on it!". They immediately dropped the wood like it had suddenly caught fire. That group's counselor told me it was okay if it had a little squirrel poop on it. "It's not animal poop!", Marissa told her. As Marissa told them what she had seen, Charlotte's look of disgust intensified by the second. After Marissa had finished, there was about five seconds of silence.

It was broken by Charlotte saying ten small words:

"YOU MEAN TO TELL ME, I STEPPED IN HUMAN. POOP."