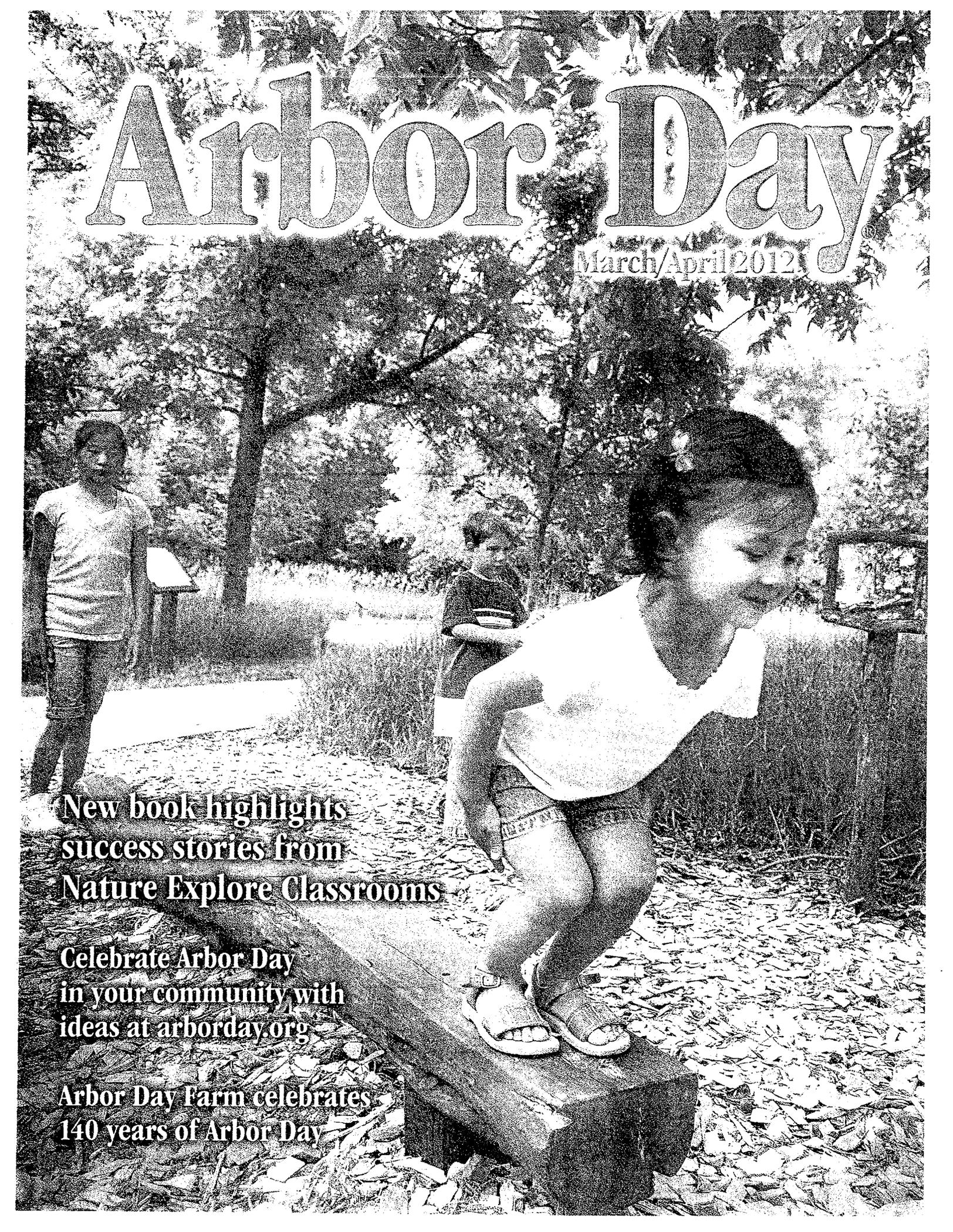


Arbor Day

March/April 2012



**New book highlights
success stories from
Nature Explore Classrooms**

**Celebrate Arbor Day
in your community with
ideas at arborday.org**

**Arbor Day Farm celebrates
140 years of Arbor Day**



Arbor Day Foundation
Chief Executive,
John Rosenow

Arbor Day Journal

Arbor Day founder J. Sterling Morton was fond of saying: "Other holidays repose upon the past; Arbor Day proposes for the future."

That spirit, taking action today to make things better for tomorrow, is at the heart of why Arbor Day Foundation members plant trees and support others in doing so.

Morton also said, "Each generation takes the earth as trustees. We ought to bequeath to posterity as many forests and orchards as we have exhausted and consumed."

Morton's words in the late 1800s anticipated the forest fires that would be so horrific around the turn of the century. Our nation responded by starting a movement to professionally manage national and state forests, creating the U.S. Forest Service and state forestry agencies.

America is again dealing with large-scale forest destruction, now caused by insects, disease, and wildfires, all exacerbated by climate change. But now we have professional forestry and caring citizens including, especially, Foundation members providing important help. The need to replant our forests merits the urgent attention and support of us all.

There is another conservation threat that is nearly invisible until you look for it...and suddenly you see it everywhere.

This slow-motion threat is unprecedented.

In the long history of humankind, for the first time we are raising a generation that is not experiencing "free-range" childhoods. Children today are increasingly disconnected from nature, often completely so.

When I talk to just about any forester, arborist, wildlife biologist, environmental educator, part-time tree planter or conservation advocate, if I probe into the beginnings of their current actions they inevitably recall memories of rewarding connections with nature when they were children. Not intellectual stuff, but things like floating sticks down a woodland stream, climbing neighborhood trees, delighting in seeing a frog or a praying mantis up close, jumping in piles of leaves, chasing fireflies on the fourth of July.

We must again make it possible for children to develop emotional connections with trees and nature so that one day they will grow to be conservation professionals, or just plain citizens who care.

Today few children spend hours away from adults wandering through wooded neighborhoods, so bringing nature to the children is the order of the day—which is what Nature Explore is all about. Thank you for everything you do to make that possible for the children of America. It is our way, together, of "proposing for the future."



Members Help Address Challenges in our Nation's Forests

For 18 years Heather and her group have traveled to YMCA's Snow Mountain Ranch near the fabled ski slopes of Winter Park, Colorado. Now she writes in her blog, "In the past six years, we've watched the sad decline of the forests in the area due to a pine bark beetle infestation. Because the winters are becoming warmer rapidly, many more beetles survive the winter now...about 90 percent of the trees are dead."

This scene of beetle devastation is spreading across the West and now threatens to move eastward. Foresters blame the epidemic primarily on two things: (1) management practices that have eliminated the natural role of fire in the western forests, creating crowding and stress, and (2) climate change that is preventing the deep freezes that killed bark beetles during winters of old.

REPLANTING OUR

NATION'S FORESTS

The impacts of this insect attack are both aesthetic and economic. They also have enormous environmental implications for Americans everywhere. Beetle-killed forests reduce the water cleansing and retaining power of the land, eliminate the ability of trees to take up carbon from fossil fuel emissions, and increase the risk of catastrophic wildfires.

Despite the spread of bark beetles, diseases, and invasive insects from other lands, foresters are fighting back. And they are getting help from members of the Arbor Day Foundation. Through improved forestry and by planting a diverse population of new forest trees, land hit by the beetles and wildfires is being restored. Already millions of trees have been planted as many Foundation members support replanting efforts in forests as they join or renew their membership each year. However, the backlog of areas needing trees remains huge.

Two other ways of providing significant help to the challenge have become popular with Arbor Day Foundation members: donations to Trees in Memory and Trees in Celebration. Through these thoughtful ways of remembering, trees are planted in honor of the loved ones and a sensitive notification is sent to the designated recipient. The new trees become active participants in restoring health to our nation's forests and fighting back against the ravishes of insects, diseases, and wildfires. To have trees planted in honor of friends or loved ones, go online to arborday.org/memory.

News from... **LIED LODGE & CONFERENCE CENTER**
Arbor Day Farm®
Nebraska City, Nebraska

Water Quality is at the Heart of Collaboration

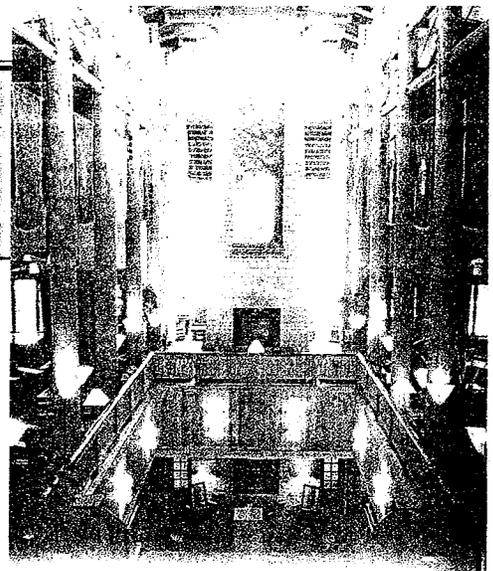
The future of our water supplies and their quality is an important environmental issue. This is on the minds of educators and scientists as they meet each year at Lied Lodge & Conference Center under the auspices of the Heartland Regional Water Coordination Initiative. This unique consortium was started in 2002 with a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and includes agencies such as EPA and land grant universities in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

"The goal is to share research and knowledge. This was rare on a regional basis and now we are communicating and even producing many regional publications together," said Amanda Schielke, an extension assistant at Kansas State University.

The need for regional cooperation was apparent. In 1999, over 23 million pounds of Atrazine and 3,551 million pounds of nitrogen fertilizer were applied to corn crops alone. Nitrates flowing into the Mississippi River system correlated strongly

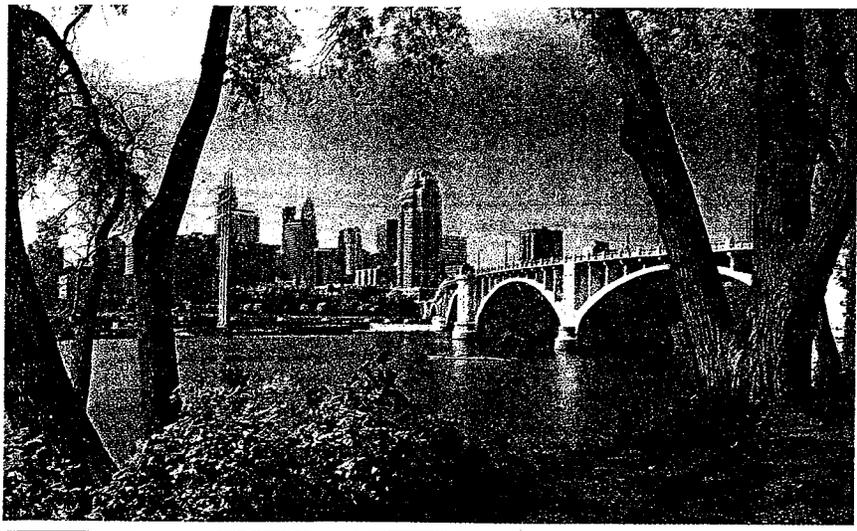
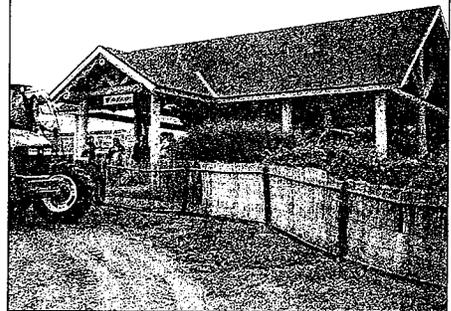
with nonpoint sources of pollution and virtually all of the land is in private ownership. Cooperative research is directed at cleaning the waterways, not only in the farm country but in urban areas as well. But research alone will not solve the problems. Improving impaired water bodies must go beyond scientific and technical knowledge to include citizen involvement and establish the expectation that individuals have a responsibility to protect their local watershed.

Building bridges of understanding, cooperation and action across disciplines and throughout the rural and urban communities is what the Heartland Regional Water Coordination Initiative is all about. Arbor Day Farm provides the perfect setting for the meetings required to implement this important work. "We are working toward environmental causes and we like not only the environment at Lied Lodge but the hospitality as well," says Amanda. "The natural setting affects our people. They feel comfortable there. And they like the food. They always mention the food!"



Special Events on Arbor Day Weekend

Join us for the 140th celebration of Arbor Day the weekend of April 27 – where it all began. Special events will include dedication of the Discovery Ride Depot (below) along with fun for all ages with nature activities, tree climbing, live music, face painting and tours of the Preservation Orchard.

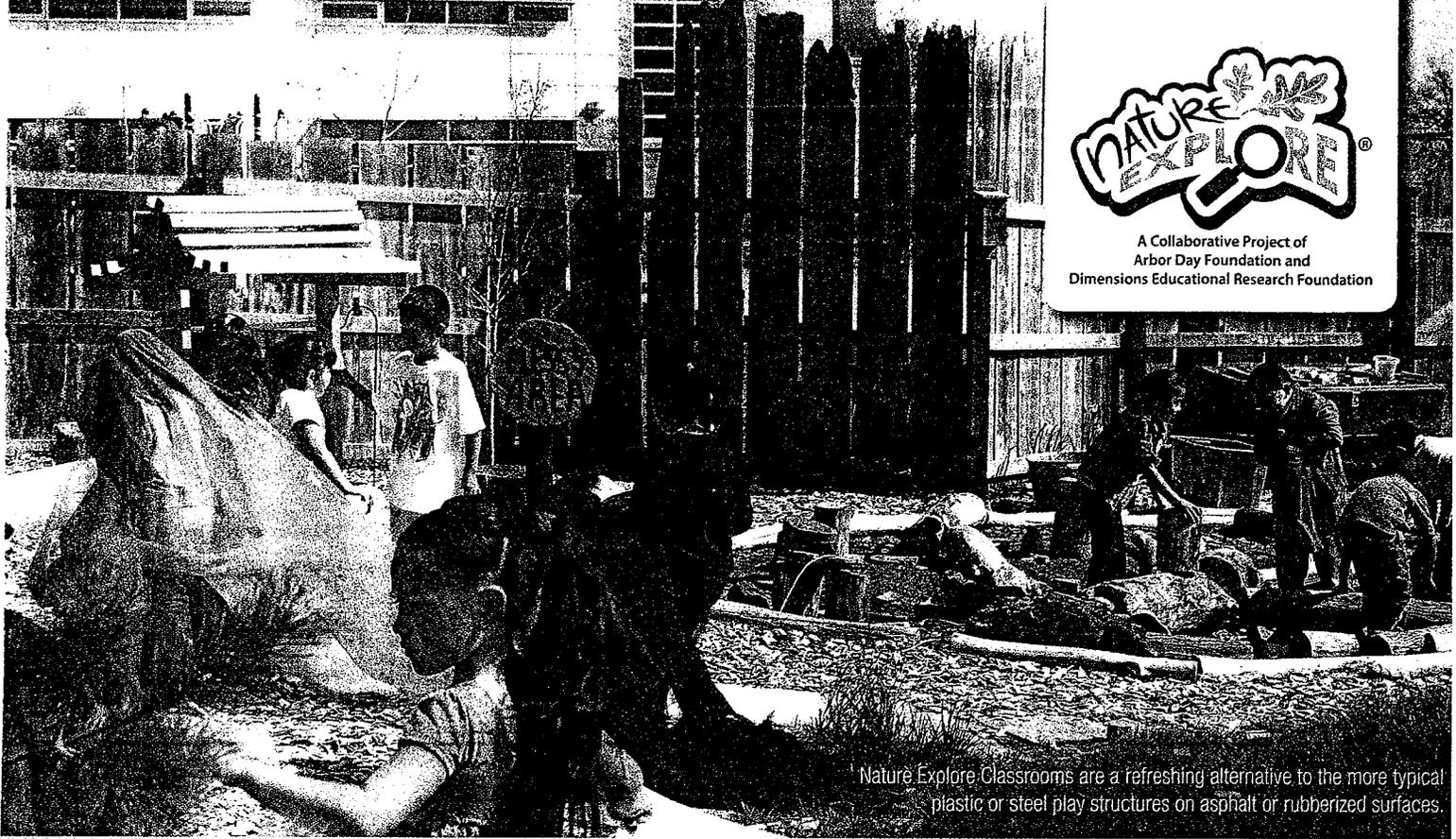


Protecting water quality next to both farms and urban areas is the focus of annual meetings at Lied Lodge & Conference Center.

arbordayfarm.org



A Collaborative Project of
Arbor Day Foundation and
Dimensions Educational Research Foundation



Nature Explore Classrooms are a refreshing alternative to the more typical plastic or steel play structures on asphalt or rubberized surfaces.

Nature Explore Classrooms

Improving Lives While Helping Children Appreciate and Nurture Nature



Plants are an easy way to help arouse curiosity and an interest in nature.

"The benefit of having our Nature Explore Classroom is immeasurable. My students are able to have free exploration time in a safe outdoor setting designed just for them. Something simple that most adults take for granted (a pile of dead leaves) can lead to a variety of lessons on life cycles, habitats, living things, and seasons. The time in nature my young students are receiving is lighting that spark of respect and passion for the natural world that will stay with them for the rest of their lives."

— Elizabeth Beckwith, Science Lab Teacher,
St. Martin's Episcopal School, Atlanta, GA

The experience at St. Martins is just one of many featured in a new book, *Growing With Nature: Supporting Whole-Child Learning in Outdoor Classrooms*. This 144-page publication illustrates the learning taking place in Certified Nature Explore Classrooms throughout the nation – learning that is simply not possible indoors. The field-tested, nature-rich principles behind the design of these special places were created by the Arbor Day Foundation's partner, Dimensions Educational Research Foundation. The principles not only introduce young children to nature, they also embody a whole-child approach that supports language and literacy, science, social/emotional adjustment, mathematics, body competence, creative arts, and visual/spatial learning.

Growing With Nature shows how Nature Explore Classrooms enable children to learn to count with acorns and pine cones. They make the shapes of letters as they learn to write. They mimic the sounds and rhythms of nature on outdoor marimbas. They draw trees and birds and flowers on clip boards in nature art areas. They learn to work together to build and create. And through it all, they learn to nurture. To free a bird stuck in a fence. To gently hold a lady bug or a praying mantis on a finger.

To move a little frog to the water puddle. To plant and water seedling tomatoes. To mulch and protect a sapling tree.

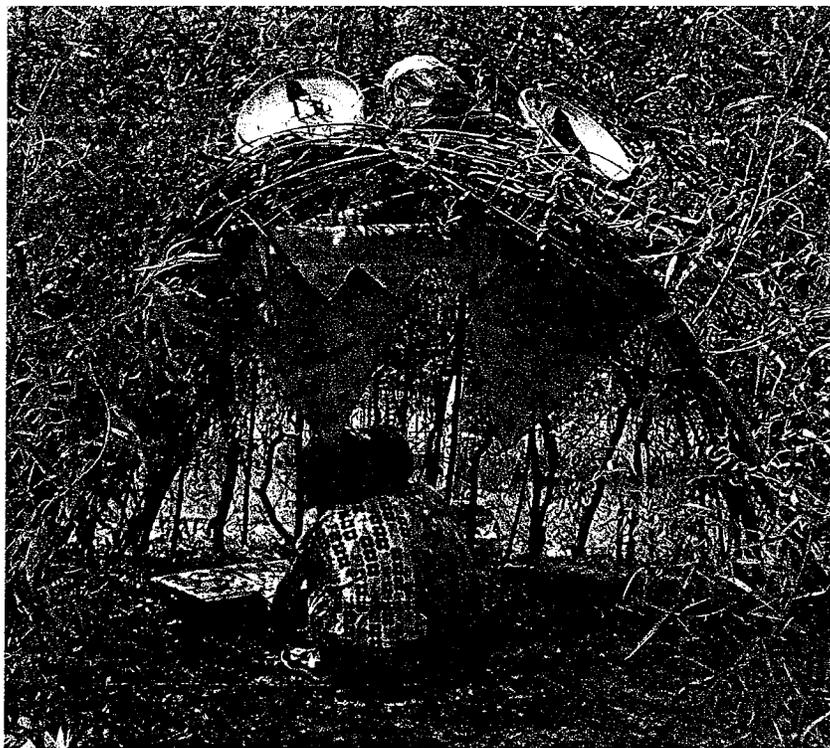
Children are learning to nurture their health and their families as well. Nature Explore Classrooms are helping children learn to grow vegetables and they are sometimes bringing home carrots, green beans, and tomatoes to families whose only taste of vegetables was once fast-food French fries. And they're awakening all of a child's senses to the sounds, smells and feel of nature's rich abundance.

The stories of life-changing experiences in *Growing With Nature* take place in a wide variety of Certified Nature Explore Classrooms—at Air Force Bases, arboretums, pre-schools, nature centers, elementary schools, places of worship, botanical gardens, work places and Head Start programs.

Unfortunately, the experiences these fortunate children are enjoying are all too often the exceptions. The "outdoors" for millions of American children consists of plastic and metal play structures on hard asphalt or hot rubber, surrounded by a chain link fence.

Arbor Day Foundation members and all who care about growing future generations of tree planters and environmental stewards can be champions of better lives for our children and champions of the environment by supporting the creation of Nature Explore Classrooms in your community.

As a first step, please obtain a copy of *Growing With Nature* by visiting natureexplore.org or phoning 888-908-8733. Once you read or receive this important publication, please share it with all who influence the outdoor environments where children in your life or in your community spend their days. Our children deserve the kind of enriching connections with nature that we enjoyed when we were young. You can help make that possible. ♦



Play structures made from natural materials help young people identify such spaces as their own. In turn, this plants the seeds of stewardship.

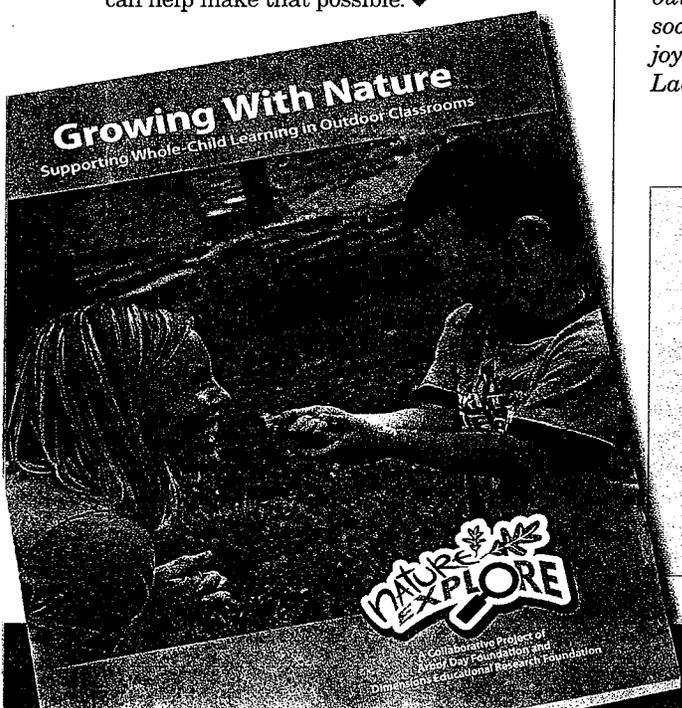
"We went outside in the 20° weather, with snow but no wind, and we played! It was so fun! We went to the Gathering Area, stood on stumps, and talked about our favorite part of the snow fest. This led to discussions about what the students can do to help or protect nature. We made and signed a group pledge to recycle, clean up after ourselves, plant flowers and trees. Life is good!"

— Stephanie Carlson-Pruch, Elementary Art Specialist,
Gomez Heritage Elementary School, Omaha, NE

"Curiosity was contagious as my students, ages six to eight, watched larvae grow into caterpillars. As the days went by, their excitement grew. The awe on their faces was priceless as they witnessed the first Painted Lady slowly climbing out of its chrysalis! Finally, the big day arrived. It was time to release our butterflies outside in our Nature Explore Classroom. As each butterfly soared into the air, the children clapped and shouted with joy! For the next few weeks, each time they spotted a Painted Lady in the garden, they wondered if it was one of their own."



— Jean Luchini, Special Education Teacher, Beard School, Chicago, IL



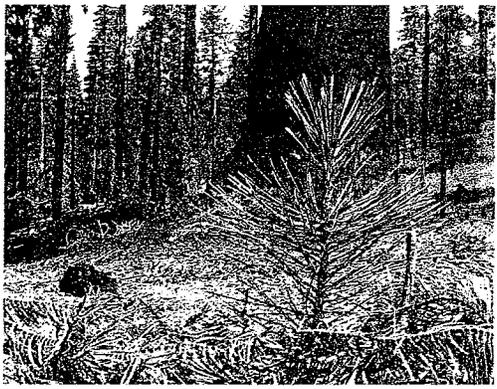
Introducing Nature Explore Playscapes

Nature Explore Classrooms across the nation are demonstrating the benefits of connecting children with nature. Now parents and grandparents are beginning to bring these ideas home, creating elements of these wonderful spaces in their own backyards.

Nature Explore staff is creating workshops, books, and resources especially intended for the budgets, expertise, and backyard spaces of homeowners. The goal is to create Nature Explore Playscapes for children everywhere. Watch for more information in future newsletters or at natureexplore.org.

Companies Support Work of the Arbor Day Foundation

Photo courtesy of the US Forest Service



The mission of the Arbor Day Foundation is to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. This effort to provide stewardship for the earth and improve the quality of life for future generations blends well with the goals of many of our nation's companies. The support they provide to the Foundation is essential for having a beneficial influence on children, communities and our great national forests and other public lands.

Please visit arborday.org/partnerships to see how companies are currently helping to build programs that advance conservation efforts while helping them meet their own goals of social responsibility. You are also invited to learn more about these partnerships and how your company – large or small – can be involved.



For fast access to the Partner's site, use this QR code or visit arborday.org/partnerships.



Ballerina Remembers Arbor Day Foundation in her Will



Members who include the Arbor Day Foundation in their will come from all walks of life...farmers, executives, teachers, gardeners, retirees, homemakers...and at least one ballerina.

When Yvonne Patterson passed away last year, the Philadelphia papers carried lengthy obituaries about her lifetime achievements as a famed ballerina. This marvelous woman, who had just celebrated her 100th birthday, also had a place in her heart for the work of the Arbor Day Foundation.

Yvonne was a legend in performing arts circles. She began her career in New York City and was selected for the first class of the School of American Ballet directed by George Balanchine. She was a dancer for the likes of Igor Stravinsky, the Russian-born composer considered by many to be the most

influential of the 20th century. She also had the distinction of performing with Le Grand Ballet du Marquis de Cuevas on sets designed by great artists such as Pablo Picasso.

In her seven-decade career, Yvonne Patterson traveled the world with dance companies and as an instructor. *Philadelphia Inquirer* columnist Art Carey called her a mix with "the regal bearing of actress Helen Mirren,



the mordant wit of Dorothy Parker, the lust for adventure of Amelia Earhart, the cultured intellect of Susan Sontag and the physical vigor of Babe Didrikson." She kept that vigor to the very end. Yvonne cared deeply about how to help children develop their creativity, a spirit of caring, a sense of wonder, and a connection with nature. Only recently she discovered the life-changing impact that Nature

Explore Classrooms had for children. She saw how these learning spaces, rich with nature, would help children develop all aspects of their young hearts, minds, and bodies.

Her generous gift to the Foundation will help continue this important legacy, assuring that future generations will know the beauty and benefits of nature in their lives as they grow.

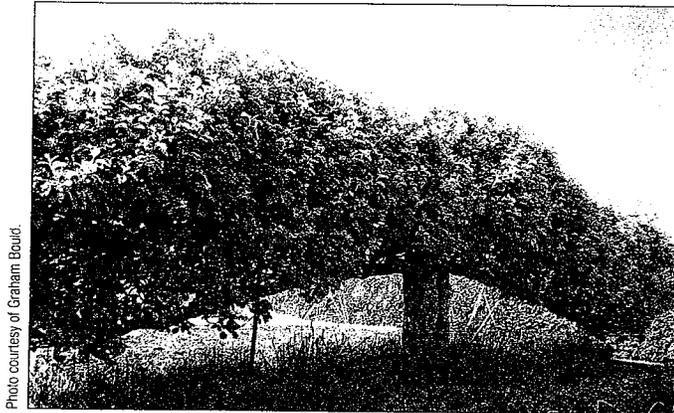
To include support for the work of the Arbor Day Foundation in your will, please include this sentence: *I give _____ (specific amount or property, percentage or residue) to the Arbor Day Foundation, located in Nebraska City, NE, a tax-exempt organization, for the purpose of supporting its environmental-stewardship programs. (Tax ID 23-7169265).*

For more information or assistance regarding making a bequest, or creating or updating your will, please contact our Gift Planning department at 1-888-448-7337, or email giftplanning@arborday.org.

TREE BASICS: Planting & Care



Q: Last summer I saw a living archway that was very attractive. However, instead of being a vine, I'm pretty sure the leaves were those of a deciduous tree. Can you tell me what this may have been?



For anyone with patience, a love of trees and the right species, pleaching is an art form that can produce amazing shapes.

What you probably saw was the result of 'pleaching.' This is an ancient art form in which the branches of the same tree are crossed and grafted together. The grafting is usually done by making a cut in the bark of both branches and tying them together until the graft 'takes.' If a person has the time and patience, all sorts of shapes can eventually be achieved. Arches, or arbors, are probably the most common and were especially popular in medieval gardens. Living fences, fanciful sculptures and even structures such as gazebos can be created. The trick is to use a species with flexible limbs and the ability to self-graft, or 'inosculate.' Willows, hornbeams and apples are commonly used. Other inosculate species include:

- Alder
- Almond
- Beech
- Dogwood
- Hazelnut
- Linden
- Pear
- Peach
- Sycamore

@ **arborday.org**
Celebrate Arbor Day
at arborday.org

Arbor Day is more than just a holiday. It is a promise to the earth — a celebration of the wonder of nature and a desire to enrich our homes and communities with the natural abundance that trees bring to our lives.

J. Sterling Morton said it best more than 138 years ago when he remarked that he found trees a fitting memorial to persons and events. He compared trees to "A collection of inanimate marbles" and declared, "Trees are the monuments I would have." Comparing the celebration of Arbor Day to other holidays, he said, "Other holidays repose upon the past. Arbor Day proposes for the future."

The Celebrate Arbor Day section of arborday.org helps people all over our country and our world catch that same inspiration and pass it on to their families, schools, friends, and communities.

The site has recently been revamped to help you make the most of the tree-planter's holiday. Visit arborday.org/celebrate to:

- Discover how Arbor Day is celebrated in your state and around the world.

- Connect with people from your town who are looking for volunteers to come together to plant trees and to help clean and beautify their communities.
- Share the history of Arbor Day and inspire your school or community to start their own tree-planting traditions.
- Download a guidebook packed with ideas for Arbor Day and action plans for celebrations from small neighborhood get-togethers to city-wide events.

Whether you're planning to host a parade and blanket a local park with trees, or you'd simply like to plant a tree in your yard, arborday.org/celebrate will help you "propose for the future" in your community.

© 2012 Arbor Day Foundation. The Foundation sometimes exchanges mailing lists with selected organizations with offers of interest to our members. If you do not want your name included, just drop us a note, an email or call Member Services and tell us not to exchange your name.

Kousa Dogwood

Cornus kousa



LEAVES: Opposite, usually 2 – 4 inches long and up to 2 inches wide, shiny dark green on top and paler beneath with tufts of brownish hairs. The margin is smooth and wavy. Autumn color is an intense scarlet or purplish-red or orange.

FLOWERS: The true flowers are greenish-yellow and very small. They are at the center of 4 creamy-white, pointy, petal-like bracts. The showy bracts, up to 2 inches in length, provide the floral beauty and turn pinkish with age.

FRUIT: A large globular drupe that looks like a raspberry. It can be an inch in diameter and is borne on a stalk up to 2 inches in length.

FORM: A small tree, maturing at about 25 feet in height with a crown spread about equal to its height. The trunk is short and sometimes multiple, with a crown often V-shaped in youth but developing stratified, horizontal branching with age.

BARK: Light brown and smooth on young trees. With age, a camouflage pattern of tan and brown develops.

PLANTING: Prefers full sun or light shade in acidic soil (pH 4.5 – 6.5) that is well-drained. Best growth is in sandy loam soil, but it will tolerate other textures except clay and very wet or very dry sites. Suitable for hardiness zones 5 – 8.

KOUSA DOGWOOD is a non-native, non-invasive tree that shows more resistance to common diseases than our native flowering dogwood. Its colorful blossoms appear in the late spring about the time flowering dogwood's fade. The flowers sometimes remain on the tree for weeks. Its autumn foliage brightens any landscape and its fruits are edible for humans but much more favored by squirrels and numerous species of birds.



Horticultural Photography

To purchase or learn more about this tree and others, visit arborday.org/kousadogwood

An official publication of

 **Arbor Day Foundation**
arborday.org

50079001



We guarantee shipment of healthy trees to our members, but please check ordering deadlines and shipping dates at arborday.org/shipping. If you need to contact us about your trees, call 888-448-7337, email us at info@arborday.org or drop us a note at Member Services, Arbor Day Foundation, 211 N. 12th St., Lincoln NE 68508. We want your tree-planting efforts to be successful.