

May 2000 - - Cub Scouts, Here We Come

Theme Related

National Hug-a-Tree Organization has an excellent assembly program for children on how not to get lost, how to stay comfortable if they do get lost, and how to be spotted and found. this independent organization works with other emergency agencies that include police departments, sheriff's office and California Rescue Dog Association. For their presentation at your meetings, call their National Office at (619) 286-7536 for a presentation nearest you.

Pre- Opening

Tree Test

- What is the double tree? (Pear)
- What tree is nearest the sea? (Beech)
- What is the languishing tree? (Pine)
- What is the calendar tree? (Date)
- What tree will keep you warn? (Fir)
- What is the Egyptian plague tree? (Locust)
- What tree do we offer friends when meeting? (Palm)
- What tree is used in kissing? (Tulip)
- What tree is used in a bottle? (Cork)
- What tree is a symbol of strength? (Oak)
- What tree is an emblem of grief? (Weeping Willow)
- What is the sweetest tree? (Maple)

Tree Tricks

Change one letter in each of these words to find the names of a dozen trees:

- MINE
- FIT
- MARCH
- YES
- PILLOW
- BENCH
- ORAR
- HATE
- ELK
- ASP
- PALS
- JOLLY

ANSWERS: 1. pine 2. fir 3. larch 4. yew 5. willow 6. beech 7. oak 8. date 9. elm 10. ash 11. palm 12. holly

Bird Riddles

When people see
My big, round eyes,
They say, "That Bird
Is very wise."
What bird am I? _ _ _ _



If you should walk
 Majestically.
 Some may say
 You're proud like me.
 What bird am I? _ _ _ _ _

I sing and soar
 High in the sky,
 A happy bird
 Some say am I.
 What bird am I? _ _ _ _ _

I walk and talk
 In an odd way --
 "A silly bird,"
 Some people say.
 What bird am I? _ _ _ _ _

Answers: Owl, Peacock, Lark, Goose

Ceremonies

Nature Advancement Ceremony

Props: A several-branched tree limb (bare) set in a can of plaster. Green paper leaves (as many as there are boys receiving awards.)

CUBMASTER:

This tree is a symbol of the natural beauty of our land. It takes Mother Nature a long time to grow a beautiful tree. It requires nurturing such as sunshine and water.

This tree represents our Cub Scouting program. In order for it to flourish, much time and effort must be spent by Cub Scouts and their parents. The boys receiving awards tonight have given time and effort, as have their parents. As each of you receives your award, you will place a leaf on our tree, and you will be able to see how much more attractive it is because of you.

(Calls forward boys and parents receiving Wolf awards and arrow points; then Bear awards and arrow points; then Webelos Badge and activity badges. Note: Since the Arrow of Light is the highest award in Cub Scouting, it is suggested that it have its own ceremony.)

You have each helped nurture this tree, and it has become a part of you. Just as Mother Nature's trees endure for many years, you have gained values through your achievements and electives and activity badges will last you a lifetime. May you always stand tall and straight like a tree... and be a beautiful resource of Our land.

Opening Ceremony

Arrangement — Den Leader or Den Chief reads narration. Two Cub Scouts in uniform are center stage - one holds a small tree, the other holds a shovel or a watering can -they pantomime planting tree. One Cub Scout stands stage left holding either a cardboard cutout of a house or a small model house. One Cub Scout stands stage right holding either a cutout of a sailing ship, or a small ship model. Another Cub Scout waits offstage with American Flag.

Narrator: What do we plant when we plant a tree?
 We plant the ship which will cross the sea.
 We plant the mast to carry the sails,
 We plant the planks to withstand the gales;



The keel, the keels on, the beam, the knee,
We plant a ship when we plant a tree.

What do we plant when we plant a tree?
We plant the houses for you and me.
We plant the rafters, the shingles, the floors;
We plant the studding, the lath, the doors,
The beams and siding, all parts that be;
We plant a house when we plant a tree.

(Cub Scout with American Flag enters and stands at attention)

What do we plant when we plant a tree?
A thousand things that we daily see.
The paper for books from which we learn,
Tools to help us to do a good turn,
The wood for a Pinewood Derby car,
For model planes that we can fly far,
We plant the staff for the flag of the free,
Yes, we plant all these when we plant a tree.

(Narrator leads audience in Pledge of Allegiance while Cub Scouts on stage hold pantomime poses.)

Cub Scout Trees

Cubmaster: As a tree grows it gets larger and stronger adding rings to it's base each year. So do cub scouts. With each activity the Cub scouts grow in character and become stronger citizens. They learn to serve family, God and country. Their branches will spread and touch many lives. The things they learn will help them to help themselves and others too.

(7 cubs with letters printed on cardboard cutouts repeat the following each in turn)

C Stands for Cub Scouts

U United in having fun

B Being the best we can be

T Training to be Boy Scouts

R Ready to learn, ready to play, ready to help others.

E Is for the Extra effort it takes to go faster and do more than an ordinary person. A Cub Scout is not an ordinary person. He is a Scout!

E Is for Earning our Ranks until we obtain the Arrow of Light. We want to be the best and in Cub Scouts The Arrow of Light is the best!!

Cubmaster: May each of the boys here become a strong, useful, and fun "Cubtree".

The Bent Tree

Two trees were planted
Just saplings, new
When the boy was young
Over the years they grew

One tree was tethered
Attached to a pole



It grew straight and strong
Had a mighty soul

The second tree was left
To face wind and rain
And it bent just slightly
Each time they came

But little by little
The tree angled so
Until lopsided and side heavy
It's branches hung low

Weak and mangled
It got in the way
'Till nothing was left
But to put it away

And the young man grown
But still full of spunk
Was grateful for leaders
Who'd tethered his trunk.

While others were left
To cope with the weather
Their branches bending
They had no tether

The boy had had Cub Scouts
To guide him along
And he grew like the tree
Straight and Strong.

We are grateful for the Cub Scout program. Please now recognize the following boys for their achievements as they grow straight and tall and become strong like the trees

Closing Thought

Did you ever pause to think about how helpful a tree is? It provides a nesting place for birds, shade from the sun, and protection from the rain. It discards its dead branches, providing wood for fires and cooking food. It adds beauty to the countryside. We must admit that a tree gives a lot more than it receives. We can learn a lesson from the tree -- by doing our best to always be helpful to others by putting others first and ourselves second. Remember the lesson we learn from the tree -- to give to others more than we receive.

Nature Opening Ceremony

Personnel: Cubmaster and six Dads

Equipment and arrangements: Paint one block letter of word N-A-T-U-R-E on each of six cardboard squares. On reverse side of each print the meaning to be given to each letter. Put letters on stakes behind the speaker's stand.



Dad 1: "N" stands for your name -- be proud of it. As you advance from Bobcat to Arrow of Light, you will add new laurels to your name. Everything you do affects your good name and family.

Dad2: "A" is for attitude. As sunlight is essential to growth, so attitude affects your spirit. Cub Scouts with the right attitude are happy, game, and fair.

Dad3: "T" stands for task. As the beaver works hard at this task, so does each Cub Scout.

Dad4: "U" stands for usefulness. Just as animals and birds are judged by their usefulness, so your place in life depends upon your usefulness.

Dad5: "R" means you're ready. As the squirrel gathers food for future use, so you have worked on your achievements getting ready for the day when you will become a Scout!

Dad6: "E" stands for energy. As the bee is never idle, so you keep busy giving goodwill.

Cubmaster: The letters on the cards spell nature -- God's way of telling us, he cares. Let us always be grateful of His guidance. (Cubmaster presents awards and arrow points for all ranks.)

Skits

The Best Tree Contest

Cast: 5 trees and a judge. An apple tree. An almond tree, A redwood tree (use the tallest boy in the den), an evergreen tree, and the smallest cub scout with a couple of twigs hanging out of his uniform.

Apple tree: I know I'm going to win the best tree contest. After all, I'm the best tree because I have yummy fruit. Can't make applesauce or cherry pie without fruit!!

Almond tree: I'm the best tree because I have nuts. Almonds are full of potassium and protein. Nuts are used in all kinds of candies, cookies, salads and even main dishes!

Redwood tree: I'm the best tree because I grow straight and tall. I provide lots of shade and lumber. I'm the biggest and tallest trees in the world!

Evergreen tree: I'm the best tree because I stay green all year round. I make a great Christmas tree!

Apple tree: Who is that over there?

Almond tree: Oh I think he's just one of the workers.

Redwood tree: No way he could be one of the contestants.

Evergreen tree: He's too small.

Apple tree: He's too scrawny.

Evergreen tree: He doesn't do anything.

All: Shhh guys, here comes the judge.

Judge: (looks around. Looks up and down and circles every tree thoughtfully writing on a tablet taking notes. Then:) I have made my decision!

All : (A flurry of excitement as they are all nervous and chat with each other wondering if it could be them)

Judge: And the winner is -- (And the judge puts the sash or ribbon on the little boy tree.)

Apple tree: Excuse me judge, I don't understand. Why did you pick him? He doesn't have fruit.

Nut Tree: He doesn't have nuts.

Redwood Tree: He's small and won't provide enough lumber to make a house

Evergreen Tree: Yeah? He couldn't even be a Christmas tree. I don't understand why he won.

(They all murmur)

Judge: Shhhhhhhh!!! (harshly) Can't you see.... More than bearing fruit, he's a little bit nuts. He'll grow strong and useful, will build many things and bring cheer to everyone. This tree (pointing and standing him up proudly)....is the future!!

Talking Trees

Cast: 4 boys dressed as lumberjacks, the rest of the den dressed as trees.

The trees are on stage with 2 lumberjacks hidden behind their costumes. 2 lumberjacks stroll onto the set.

1st boy: Sometimes I wish I were Paul Bunyan. Then maybe this job wouldn't be so hard.



2nd boy: I know what you mean. But if we don't get to work soon it'll be our heads that get chopped.

1st boy: Ok let's get busy. How about this tree? (points to a tree)

Tree: Oh no, don't chop me.

1st boy: Did you hear that?

2nd boy: I did! I can't believe my ears. And no one else in the camp will either.

1st boy: I can't chop down a talking tree.

2nd boy: And you can't tell anyone either. They'll think you've gone crazy.

1st boy: Ok then let's try a different tree.

2nd boy: (pointing to the next tree) How about this one?

Tree: Oh you don't want me, I'm all full of termites!

1st: Oh MY did you hear that? Another talking tree!

2nd boy: Yeah I did! And we ought to be grateful. Our boss would chop our heads if we came back with a tree full of termites!!

1st boy: Ok let's try another one.

2nd boy: How about this one:

Tree: It's no use boys. We all talk over here.

1st boy: Golly! Another talking tree! This gives me the creepers!

2nd boy: Me too! Let's get outta here!

(They run off stage. The other two boys come out from behind the trees.)

3rd boy: Well that takes care of them! They won't be coming back to our part of the woods again!

4th boy: Yeah. Let's get to work. The boss'll chop our heads if we don't get to work!

The Highest Tree Climber in the World

Cast : 2 friends

Setting: Campfire

Tree Climber is hidden in the woods and is able to ruffle a bush or tree.

1: You know, they say there's this really good tree climber trying out for the Olympics. I wonder if he's practicing around here?

2: Call out and see!

1: Hey! Tree Climber! You around here?

Climber: Yep.

1: How high are you?

C: Oh, not high. About 100 feet.

1: Wow! Can you go higher?

C: Yep (Ruffles trees) Now I'm at about 200 feet.

1: Fantastic! Can you go higher?

C: Yep! (Ruffles tree) Now I'm at about 275 feet.

1: Neato! Can you go higher?

C: Yep! (Ruffles tree) Now I'm at about 325 feet.

1: Great! Can you go higher?

C: Yep! (Ruffles tree) Now I'm at about 400 feet.

1: Gee I'm amazed!

2: Excuse me Sir, but I have a book here that says that the highest tree in the world is only 360 feet high.

C: Ahhhhhhhhh...(fading) Thump.

Paul Bunyan

Narrator is dressed in a plaid flannel shirt, a knit stocking cap and blue jeans carrying an axe. Other characters may come on stage with ad-libs and appropriate pantomime.



We all know how Paul Bunyan grew to be the biggest logger there was in the Northwest. But did you know the troubled childhood he had?

Paul was born in Maine and it wasn't long till he had outgrown the house. His folks wheeled him about in a large wheelbarrow and it took the both of them pushing to get him around. For buttons on his baby clothes, Mom Bunyan used doorknobs as these were the only thing that would hold when Paul sneezed.

Mom and Pa Bunyan got a terrific idea and decided to build a large cradle like a ship and anchor Paul out in the bay so the ocean could rock Paul to sleep. This worked just fine for a few days. But, one day Paul awake especially hungry and he rocked his cradle until the whole town was fearful of the tidal wave they felt sure was coming. Mr. and Mrs. Bunyan were asked to take Paul somewhere away from people where he couldn't hurt others. So, Paul's folks moved to the forests of Canada where Paul helped his father log. I guess you all know the rest.... Paul became the most famous logger there ever was. No one knows what happened to Paul. It's said if you listen very closely, ...

From offstage: "TIMMMMBER!!!!"

Run- ons/Jokes

Why did hundreds of people flock to the base of the oak tree?

Why?

It had a scenic root.

If two snakes marry, what will their towels say?

Hiss and Hers.

What do you get when a monkey falls into a bag of potato chips?

A chip-monk.

What has more lives than a cat?

A frog, it croaks every night.

Why do birds fly south for the winter?

Why?

Because it's a lot faster than taking a bus.

Two Boy Scouts from the city were on a camping trip. The mosquitoes were so fierce the boys had to hide under their blankets to keep from being bitten.

Then one of them saw some lightning bugs, and he said to his friend: "We might as well give up. They're coming at us with flashlights!"

What did the beaver say to the tree?

I don't know, what?

It's been nice gnawing you.

What do snakes do after a fight?

What?

They hiss and make up.

Did you hear about the guy who crossed a carrier pigeon with a woodpecker?

No, what happened?

He created a bird that not only delivers messages, but also knocks on the door.

"Gee, Mom," said her son, as they walked through the woods, "What are those



holes in the trees?"

"They're knotholes."

"Well," replied the surprised boy, "if they're not holes, what are they?"

My dad can carry a tree in one hand.

No way. What kind of tree?

A palm tree!

Applauses

Treetopper Cheer: Simulate climbing a tree, one branch at a time; cut off the top with an ax and yell "Timberrrrrrrr"

Echo Cheer: Have one-half of the group holler out a cheer, and the other half be the echo, giving the cheer repeatedly fainter and fainter.

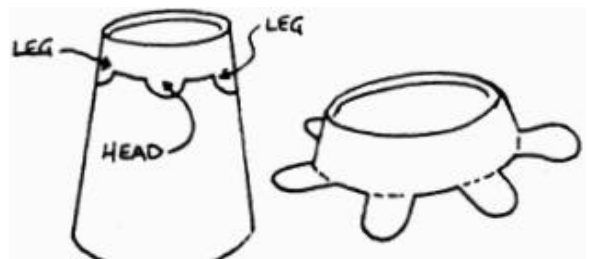
Beaver Applause: Start by yelling, "Papa Beaver" and clap hands with straight arms and large swing for the beaver's tail hitting the water. Then announce, "Mama Beaver" and put base of each hand together and clap. Finally yell, "Baby Beaver" and bring the thumb and forefinger together.

Stamp of Approval: Stamp feet on the ground.

Games

Turtle Race

Invert a paper cup and cut it as shown to make a turtle, bending out the head, tail, and legs. Each player gets a pan of water and a turtle. At signal, players put their turtles at an established starting point in the dishpans. Then, using lung power alone, they blow the turtle around the sides of the pan until it is back at the starting point. The one who completes the course first wins.



Spinning Yarns

Boys sit in a circle. Have a ball of yarn made from short pieces of yarn. Hand the ball to the first boy who unwinds it as he tells his part of a story. When he comes to the end of the first piece of yarn, he hands the ball to the next boy, who continues the story and so on until the ball of yarn is gone.

Ducklings

(A game from Germany for three to ten players)

Players sit in a semicircle. A player at one end asks questions, which are then passed, one at a time, from player to player until they reach the player at the other end, who sends the answer back through the semicircle in reverse order. The questions and answers -- and the duckling itself -- may be changed.

Question:

Do you have a duckling to sell?

Can it walk?

How does it walk?

Can it talk?

How does it talk?

Answer

Yes. I have a duckling to sell.

Yes it can walk.

It walks like this.

(Players each get up and waddle like a duck when they say this.)

Yes it can talk.

It talks like this.

(Players each quack after saying this.)



The object is to keep from laughing. If any player laughs while saying the message, he or she must pay a forfeit such as hopping around the semicircle without stopping or singing a nursery rhyme song or telling a joke or riddle.

Jump The Creek

Each boy does his best and tries to improve his last jump. Two ropes are laid parallel and close together. One at a time, the boys jump across the 'creek'. After all have jumped, the distance between the ropes is increased slightly. The boys must not step in the creek (between the ropes) or on the water edge (the rope) or they are eaten by sharks and must leave the game.

Squirrel In the Tree

Form small circles of three or four cubs. Hold hands to form "trees" with hollow trunks. A cub representing a squirrel stands in each tree. Have one more squirrel than there are trees. On signal, the squirrels must change trees. The one left out becomes "it" for the next game.

Tree Tag

Choose a cub to be it. Play tag using trees as base. Anyone touching base forces the present base holder to run to another base.

One Leaf Trail

A trail is laid out using one kind of leaf as a marker, letting the stem point in the direction to be followed. At the end of the trail, the players hunt for the tree whose leaves were used.

Seed- Planting Relay

Each person in turn follows a line drawn on the floor by placing the heel of one foot against the toe of the other. About every 3 feet, he must stop and place a seed in a small-mouthed jar set about 18 inches on either side of the line. When he reaches the end, he runs back and touches the next person who plants his seeds in the same manner. (Try using throw-away soda bottles with peas or dried beans)

Animal Treasure Hunt

This is an excellent icebreaker for indoors or outdoors and will get everyone in the pack involved. Before the game starts, hide peanuts or wrapped candy, a lot of it, in as many places as possible. Each den, including parents, chooses a team captain (it could be the denner), and they also choose an animal call such as a crow, cow, donkey, etc. The object of the game—the team is to find the hidden objects and give the call, caw, caw, caw) pointing at the candy or peanut. The team captain tries to collect as many of the items as possible locating them from the calls of his team members. The captain is the only one that can collect, and the team members function is to find and give their call. The team with the greatest number of candy or peanuts wins. A group prize could be given to each of the winning team, such as a peanut

Songs

The Woodpecker

(Tune: Turkey in the Straw)

The woodpecker pecked out a little round hole,
And made him a house in the telephone pole.
One day when I watched, he poked out his head,
And he had on a hood and collar of red.
When the streams of rain pour out of the sky,
And the sparkles of lightning go flashing by,
And the big, big wheels of thunder roll,



He can snuggle back in the telephone pole.

Fido

(Tune: Reuben, Reuben)

I have a dog; his name is Fido.
 I have raised him from a pup.
 He can stand up on his hind legs
 If you hold his front legs up.

Be Kind To Your Web-Footed Friends

(Tune: Stars and Stripes Forever)
 Be kind to your web-footed friends,
 For a duck may be somebody's mother
 Be kind to your friends in the swamp
 Where the weather's cool and damp

You may think that this is the end,
 Well--it is!

Bingo

There was a farmer had a dog,
 And BINGO was his name-o
 B- I- N- G- O,
 B- I- N- G- O,
 B- I- N- G- O
 and BINGO was his name-o

(Repeat dropping a letter off of BINGO each time and replacing it with a clap until at last you are clapping the whole five letters during the spelling portion of the song.)

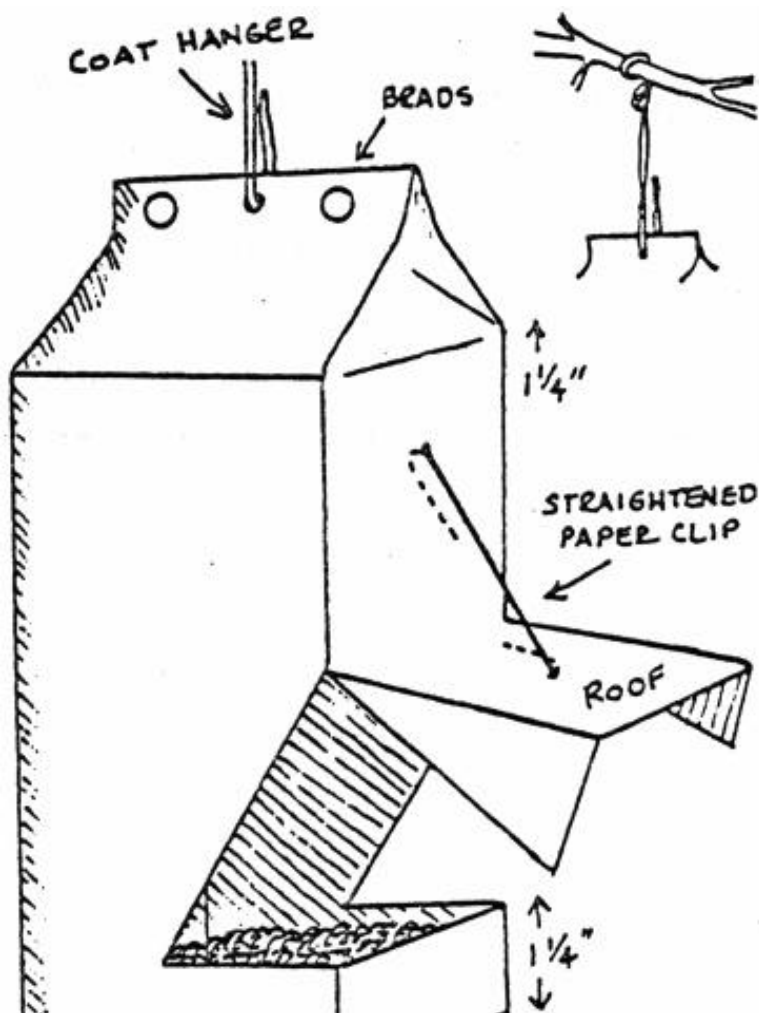
Crafts

Wooden Woggle

- Materials: 1/2 inch wide by 1 inch long section of PVC pipe
- Stickers or pictures
- Alphabet macaroni
- Wood glue
- Varnish
- Paint
- Wooden "tree slices" which are sanded pieces of tree branches for wood base.

Position macaroni and any chosen object on the wood base. Then use a toothpick to glue in place. Note: Use glue sparingly and only where necessary because varnish won't stick to glue.

When glue is dry, paint decoration (optional)



Varnish entire decoration except where base attaches to ring backing
When dry, glue pipe to back of wood base.

Milk Carton Feeder

Materials:

Half gallon milk carton

Paper clip

2 brads

Wire coat hanger cut once near hook

Pen

Pliers

Wire cutters

Knife

Directions:

Draw the feeder opening with a pen. Cut out with a knife. The bottom of the feeder is 1 1/4" deep (See the drawing). Straighten out the paper clip and push it through a hole 1 1/4" from the point where the carton changes shape. Twist each end of the clip to hold the carton roof. Make a few tiny holes in the bottom of the carton to let moisture out. Seal the top of the carton with 2 brads. Push the straightened hanger thru the middle of the carton top bending the hanger back onto itself. Hook the other end over the branch. When the birds get used to the feeder, it can be moved closer to the house.

Bleach Bottle Feeder

Materials:

1 or 1 1/2 gallon bleach bottle

Knife and scissors

Twigs about 5" long

1 coat hanger

Nail or paper punch

Directions:

With a knife or scissors, cut flaps 6" long and 4" high. Punch holes with a nail or paper punch and prop flaps open with small twigs. Make a perch of twigs on either side of the bottle. Hang the feeder using the hanger with the bottom cut out of it and the ends of the hanger inserted in the handle and the bottom of the bottle.





Nature Vase

Gather a bunch of sticks and twigs about 1/4 inch in diameter, an empty plastic jar, thick rubber bands, raffia or ribbon, glue, and decorative trim.

Break or snip your sticks to about an inch longer than the jar. Put two rubber bands around the jar, one inch from the top and bottom. Tuck the sticks under both rubber bands placing them as close as possible to each other. Surround the whole jar. Then slide the rubber bands together in the middle of the jar and cover it with raffia or a decorative bow. Glue on decorative trims. Then fill the vase with wild flowers.

Leaf Journal Covers

Materials: Leaves, a wood board, small square of muslin, thumbtacks, a flat smooth rock or small hammer, blank notebook or journal, glue, and twine ribbon or colored paper. Select some leaves. Put a paper on the board and then lay the leaves on it. Place the piece of muslin on top, tacking the fabric down at the corners so it won't shift. Using the rock or hammer, beat the fabric carefully but with consistent, even force. Lift up the fabric, and the leaf will have left its image in green. Glue the muslin square to the front cover of the blank book. To cover the fabric's edges, glue on a border of twine, flat ribbon or colored paper. Wide flat leaves make the clearest prints.

Strictly for the Birds

It's hard to believe, but it's almost that time of year again when one starts thinking of gardening and yard work.

Why not make a bird house to welcome back our tiny, feathered friends? When making a bird house, remember that each kind of bird has special needs. Be sure you follow the specifications for the birds you want to attract.

Terrarium

This terrarium is made from a 2 liter no deposit soft drink bottle. Use a clear bottle not the green ones.



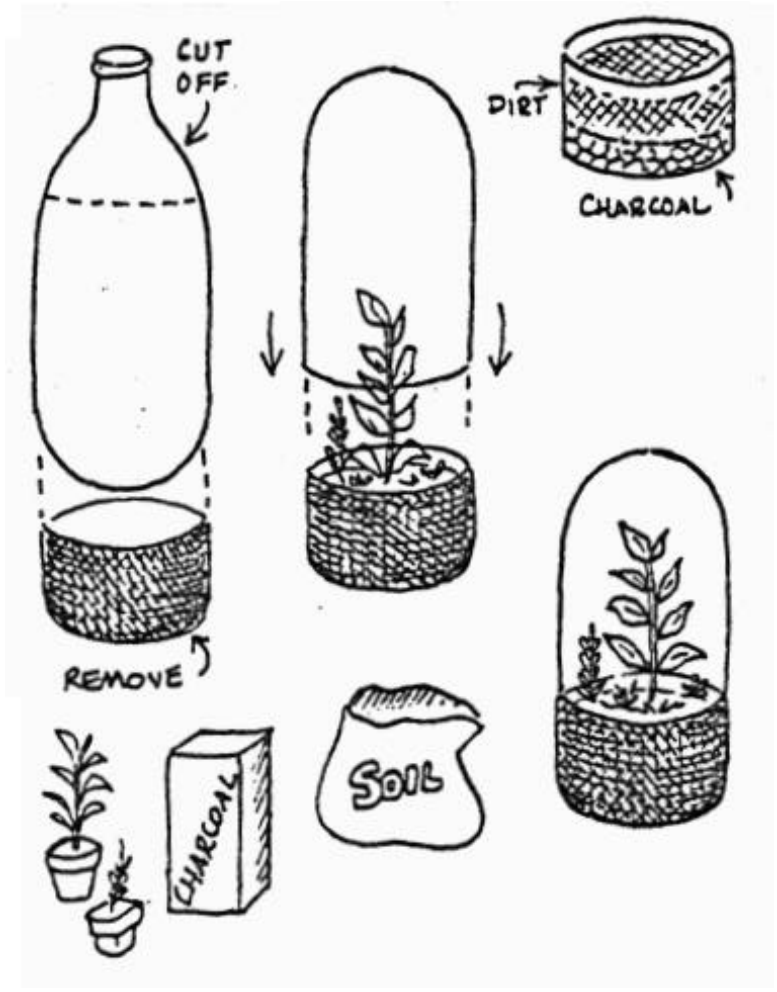
1. To remove the plastic bottom and label, soak the bottle in hot water for a few minutes. Sand off the bottom with your fingers. You may need to pry it loose gently all the way around.

2. Cut the top of the bottle off just below the bulge leaving approximately 2/3 of the bottle.

3. Pour 1/2" of charcoal into the black bottom. Then fill with potting soil to within 1/4 inch of the top.

4. Plant with slow-growing plants. Water thoroughly. Decorate with colored rocks, if desired.

5. Turn the 2/3 of the bottle upside down and set on the black bottom to form a clear plastic dome. The terrarium never needs water. It creates its own moisture through condensation. Plants live in the environment you have crated.



Rain Painting

Materials: Paper Plates (Chinet or other uncoated plate)

Food Coloring

White Crayon

After sprinkling a few drops of food coloring on a paper plate, put on your rain gear and go out into the rain for about a minute. For a batik effect try drawing a white crayon design on the plate before adding the food coloring. No rain? No problem. Dip your fingers into a glass of water and without drying them hold them high above the plate and let the drops fall onto the plate!

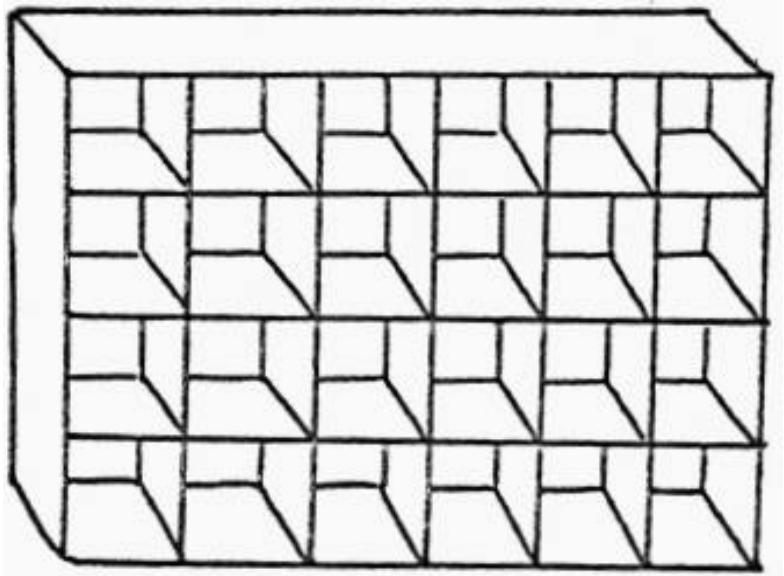


Nature Shelf

To display items gathered on hikes or in the backyard, an old wooden soft drink case or other box which is divided into squares or sections. Paint it a sunny yellow in contrast to the browns and grays of your nature displays.

These are some suggestions of things to display in your box:

- Empty wasp's nests
- Sea shells
- Dead butterflies
- Driftwood
- Dried moss or lichen
- Unusual rocks or pebbles
- Snake skin
- Various kinds of feathers.



Nuthatch House

This bird house could be used for downy woodpeckers and titmice as well as nuthatches. Just add a dowel perch, about 2" long, below the opening and hang house at appropriate height.

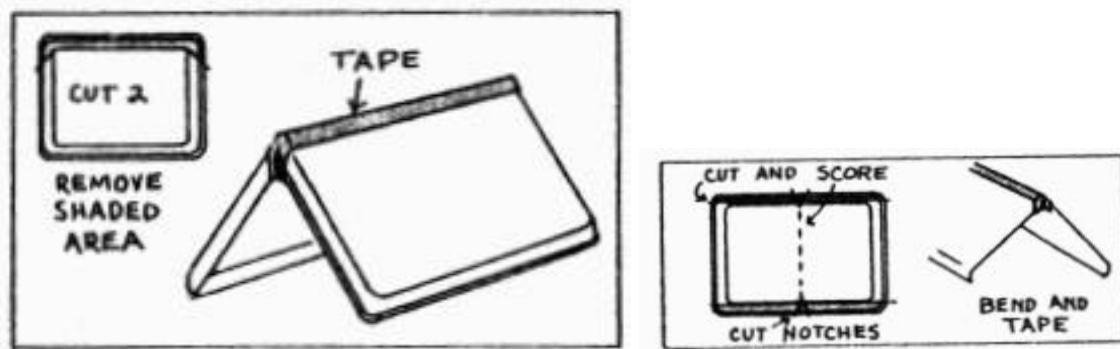
For the house, use a gallon milk carton cut down to 4W' high with 9" peaks at front and back. Cut a round, 1 1/2" opening in the front, about 2" below the peak. Paint the house a dark, woody color, using acrylic or rubber base paint.

For the roof, use two colorful plastic foam trays, 8" x 10". Cut off the rim on one long edge of each tray and tape the cut edges together for the top of the roof, fitting it over the house to get the proper shape before taping. The remaining rims will give a thatched appearance to the roof.

To attach roof to house, make a small hole in the front and back of the house about 1/2" below the point of the peak. Make holes in the scored line of the roof about 1 1/2" in from each end.

Attach stovepipe wire through holes at front and back and up through holes of roof. Join the wires about 1 foot above roof. For the nuthatch, hang the house 12 to 20 feet above the ground, 6 to 15 feet for the titmouse and 6 to 20 feet for the downy woodpecker. You may raise the roof for housecleaning.





Barn Wren House

For the house, use a half-gallon milk carton. Cut the sides down to 4 1/4" high, with the peaks at front and back 6" high. Cut a 1" round opening in the front of the house.

Using acrylic or rubber base paint, paint the house a red, barn color. Paint a small, square area black around the opening. Paint white trim to indicate the barn doors and windows.

For the roof, use a plastic foam tray, 6" x 8". Cut off the rims on the long sides. On the back of the tray, score across the middle with a sharp knife. Cut V-shaped notches at ends of scored line so tray will bend freely.

Tape the underside of the scored line for added strength. Bend the roof to fit over the peaks of the house with about 1 1/2" overhang on all sides. Tape top of roof, extending tape about 1/2" at each end to attach to underside.

Attach the roof and hang the wren house in the same manner as you did the nuthatch house, hanging it 6 to 10 feet above the ground.

Hummingbird Feeder

For this tiny feeder, use a small plastic pill bottle with its plastic cap. With a heated needle, punch a tiny hole near edge of cap. Fill bottle with sugar water, tinted with red food coloring.

To perk up the feeder, cut a flower from the egg cup of a colorful foam egg carton. Cut the sides of the cup into petals and cut an opening in the bottom large enough to fit the pill bottle. Slide the bottle about halfway through the opening.

To hang the feeder, wrap wires around the bottle above and below the flower. Hang the bottle sideways, with the hole end tipped slightly downward. The hole is at the bottom of the feeder.



Cubs in the Kitchen

Forest Creatures

Use frozen bread dough partially thawed but not yet rising. Form balls for heads, bodies, arms and legs. Make sure that the circles touch. Use raisins for the eyes, and use a knife to score the top and make "texture" to the animals. Let rise. Preheat the oven and brush the animal with egg wash (1 egg whisked with 1 tablespoon of water). Cook for 25 minutes or until golden brown.

Birds Nests

1 can (14 oz.) Sweetened Condensed Milk (not evaporated milk)

2 tsp vanilla

1 to 1 1/2 tsp almond extract

2 (7 oz) packages flaked coconut (5 1/3 cups)

Assorted small jelly beans

Tint coconut by adding a teaspoon of water and a few drops of green food coloring into a large ziplock bag. Add the coconut and shake until it is all colored.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Line a baking sheet with foil. grease and flour the foil and set aside. In a large bowl, combine the milk and extracts. Stir in the coconut and drop by rounded teaspoonfuls onto foil lined sheets. Slightly flatten each mound.

Bake 15 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from oven. Immediately press 2 or 3 small jelly beans in the center of each "nest"

"Log" Cabins

Clean an 8 oz milk or juice carton. Staple the top together. Cover it with peanut butter or frosting. Insert pretzel sticks pressing into the carton so they stick and some of the "mortar" seeps in between the sticks. Make doors by turning the sticks upright and breaking them off to the right size. Make shingles on the roof with pretzel nuggets or overlapping small pretzel twists. To get a really good fit it may be necessary to nibble down the sticks to the appropriate sizes.

Cheesecake Grahams

1 pkg (3 oz) cream cheese softened

1/4 cup sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 1/2 cups non-dairy frozen whipped topping

12 graham crackers

Beat the cream cheese, sugar, vanilla, and topping together. Break the graham crackers in half to make squares. Spread one square with the mixture, then top with another square. Repeat for the rest of the crackers. Serve immediately or refrigerate until served.

Deviled Eggs

6 hard boiled eggs

1/3 cup mayonnaise

dash of salt

1/4 teaspoon dry mustard

2 teaspoons vinegar

2 teaspoons parsley flakes

paprika



Carefully peel the eggs. cut them in half lengthwise and gently remove the yolks into a small mixing bowl. Mash the yolks, then stir in the mayonnaise, salt, mustard, vinegar and parsley, mix thoroughly. Mound the mixture back into the egg-white halves. Sprinkle lightly with the paprika.

Quick Trail Mix

Mix chocolate chips, raisins, & nuts. Add some cereal squares if you like. Granola works good.

Field Trips

Villa Montalvo Saratoga (408 741-3421 Arboretum. Mon-Fri 8-5, weekends 9-5. Galleries: Thu-Fri 1-4, weekends 11-4, Free. Nature trails traverse a redwood grove, hills and meadows, and flower covered arbors. Also a bird sanctuary for 41 species of birds.

Muir Woods National Monument.

Off highway 1 on Muir Woods Rd. (415) 388-2595. 8 a.m. to sunset. Free. This is a lovely forest of giant coast redwood, some more than 200 feet high. In addition to the trees there are many other species of plant life as well as an occasional blacktailed deer or in summer Salmon. Snack bar, gift shop, and ranger's station. Several self-guided trails. Junior ranger packs are offered free to young naturalists.

Richardson Bay Audubon Center.

376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon. (415) 388-2525. Wed-Sun 9-5. Public nature walks on Sundays at 9 and 1. Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary provides a habitat for wildlife and is an environmental education center. Youngsters can explore sea life and observe birds on nature trails. Programs, films, and classes.

Roaring Camp and Big Trees Narrow-Gauge Railroad

Highway 17 to Mt. Hermon Road exit at Scotts Valley then go west 3 1/2 miles to the end of the road at Felton. Go left onto Graham Hill Road. (408) 335-4400. Call for fares on the train. Group rates available.

Old steam train rides through redwoods on a 1 1/4 hour ride. Camp also has nature trails, covered bridge, shops and barbecue.

Petrified Forest

Between Calistoga and Santa Rosa (707) 942-6667 Daily 10-5 until 6 in summer. Adults \$3, children 4-11 \$1.

Volcanic eruptions millions of years ago formed this forest of petrified redwoods. A lovely forest trail passes a 300 foot long "Monarch" tunnel tree and "the Queen" which was already 3,000 years old when it was buried. Shop with more petrified specimens inside.

Drive Through Tree

Old Highway 101 Leggett (707) 925 6363. Daily 9-5, in summer 8 a.m. until dark. \$2.50 per car.

This large, chandelier-shaped 315 foot redwood was tunneled in 1934 and a standard-size contemporary car just fits through. It's 21 feet in diameter and, in spite of the tunnel is still alive. The winding dirt road leading to the tree takes you right to a little gift shop and to the highway. There are 200 acres of nature trails and picnic areas by the side of a lake that is a home to geese. Logging relics are on the grounds. Kids like the log with a hole you can crawl through. 5 miles from "Trees of Mystery"

Trees of Mystery

Redwood Highway, U.S. 101 16 miles south of Crescent City, Klamath. (707) 482-5613. Daily 8-7 until 9 in summer. 8-5 daily in winter. Closed holidays. Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, children 6-12 \$2.50

A talking 49-foot-tall Paul Bunyan greets you at the entrance and then you walk through a hollowed redwood log into a forest of redwoods, where recorded music and explanations take you past trees such as the Fallen Giant, the Elephant tree, and the immense and moving Cathedral Tree. going back down is Paul Bunyan's Trail of Tall Tales --



where you hear how Babe the Blue Ox was found, how the Grand Canyon was dug, and how Sourdough Sam makes his pancakes. Gift shop.

Pacific Lumber Company

Scotia 27 miles south of Eureka. (7087) 764-2222 Mill tours year round at 7:30 and 10:30 a.m. 12:30 and 3 p.m. Mon -Thr. Fri 12:30-2:30. Museum : summer weekdays 10-4. Free.

Scotia is an old logging town that was built entirely of redwood. Entirely owned by Pacific Lumber Company, it is probably the last wholly owned town in the U.S. The museum, a fine old mansion, presents pictures of loggers at work and play and a collection of logging equipment, tools and relics. Self-guided tour of the mill (about 45mins) follows the processing of a log from the moment it comes out of the pond.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

Highway 101 near Orick (7087) 488-2171. daily 9-5 Free. Junior ranger programs 5 days a week for children 6-12. Call for times and topics.

See a madrone tree that grew to envelope the skull of an elk. Nature trails. One has a living redwood tree that has been hollowed out by fire. 65 school children have been inside it at one time! Just south of the park on 101 is the Prairie Creek Fish Hatchery ((707) 488-2253 8-5 daily, free). Just north of Orick, at Balk Hills Junction, the Arcata Redwood Company's Mill A welcomes visitors to view operations from an overhead catwalk. A forest Renewal Exhibit is 5 miles farther north. 4 miles south on 101, the Rellim Demonstration Forest offers a free self-guiding tour (707) 464-3144.



