

Penn State **Extension**

Cultivating the Next Generation of Forest Stewards



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An **OUTREACH** program of the College of Agricultural Sciences



Today's Youth



- Spend the majority of their free time "connected" indoors
- Lack knowledge and understanding about forest and natural resources topics
- Have misconceptions and fears



"Nature-Deficit Disorder"



LAST CHILD
IN THE
WOODS

SAVING OUR
CHILDREN
FROM
NATURE-
DEFICIT
DISORDER

RICHARD LOUV

For Almost Everyone ...

A love and appreciation of forests is:

- Planted & cultivated by others
- Instilled early
- Often connected to a specific place



Put Another Way.....

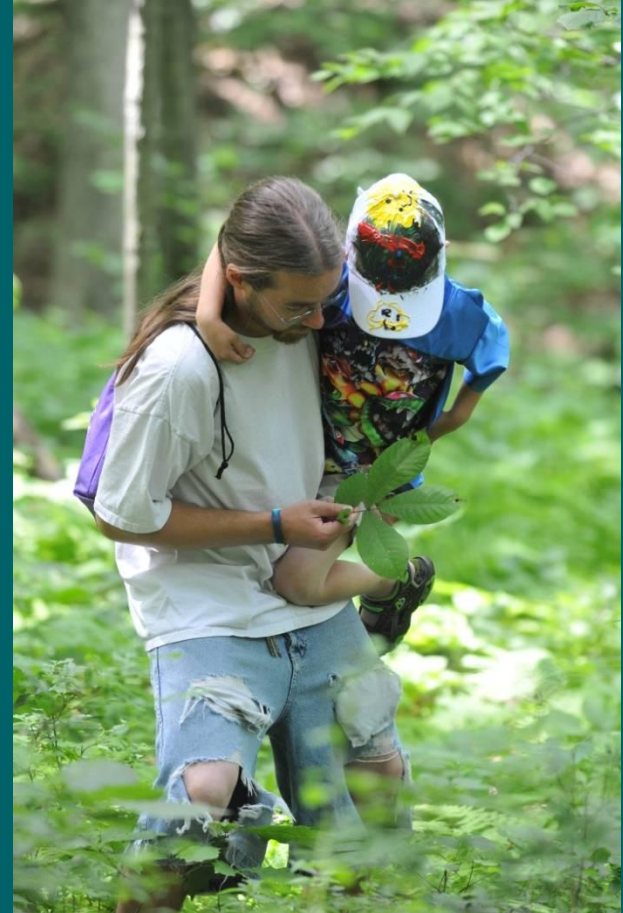
*"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder [he or she] needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in."
- Rachel Carson
(From "The Sense of Wonder")*



Photo Source: wikipedia.com

Cultivating the Next Generation... as PA Forest Steward

- Penn State Youth Protection Guidelines (<18 years old)
 - Youth + parents only
 - Teacher exception
 - Group presentations
 - Include parents and/or teachers in all communications
 - No power equipment
 - No photography without permission



Working with Groups

Groups: Wider impact. parental involvement, find/develop curriculum, mixed age/stage challenges, diversity of views and opportunities, state standards, badge requirements short duration, often one-shot "staged" or prepared experiences



Working with Individuals (Family Members Only)

Side-by-side mentoring, less preparation, intensive ongoing learning experiences, longer duration, regular or work activities, connected to place, family and community heritage



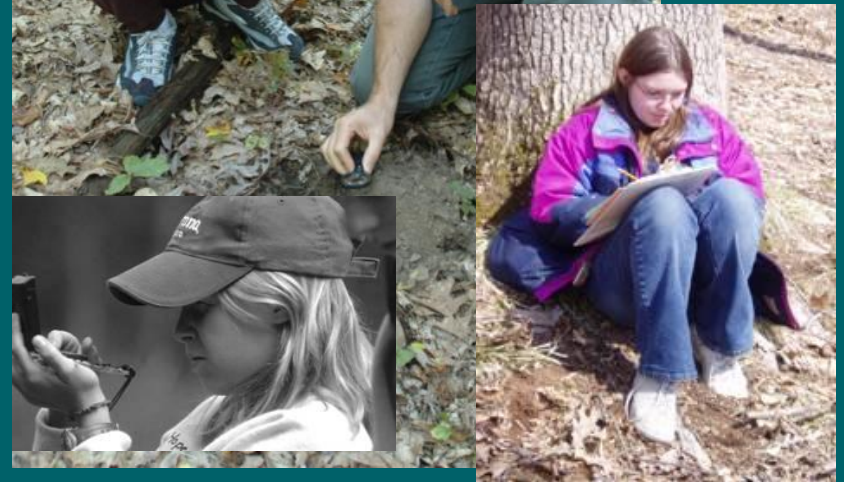
"Fire Starters"

- Plant a tree (s)
- Build a brush pile
- Use a hand lens to explore small things
- Take a thematic hike
- Collect tree seeds
- Stage a campfire
- Collect leaves
- Do bark rubbings



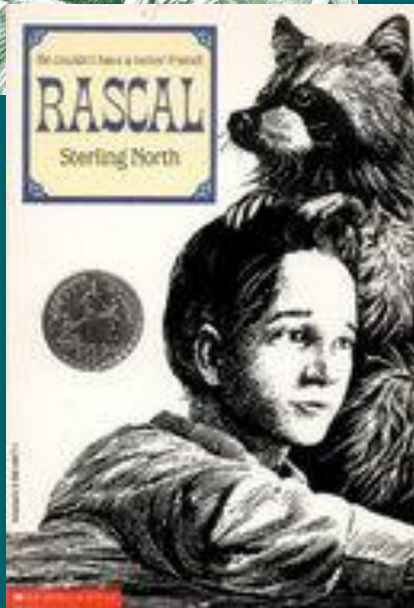
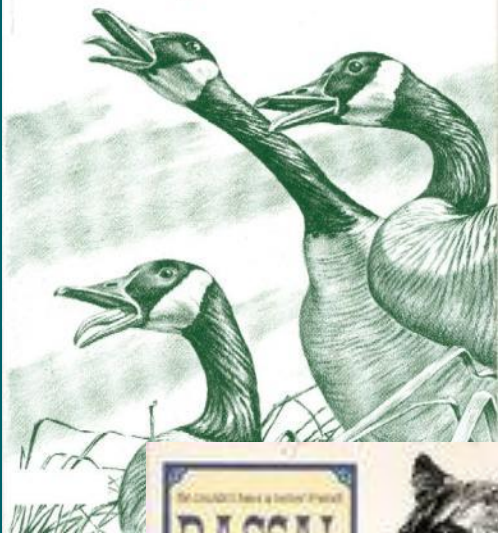
"Fire Starters"

- Unstructured play
- Map a woods
- Build a fort
- "Scouting" walks
- Journal / photography
- Stump sit
- Draw / paint
- Go fishing / hunting



A Sand County ALMANAC

AND SKETCHES HERE AND THERE
By ALDO LEOPOLD



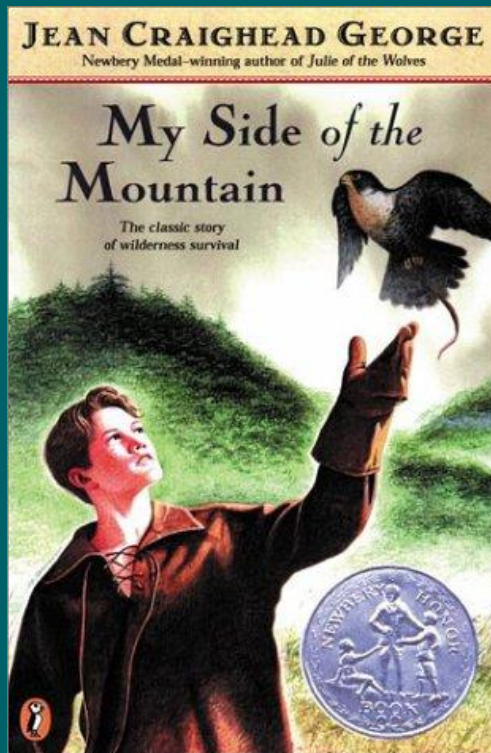
READ TO KIDS!

JEAN CRAIGHEAD GEORGE

Newbery Medal-winning author of *Julie of the Wolves*

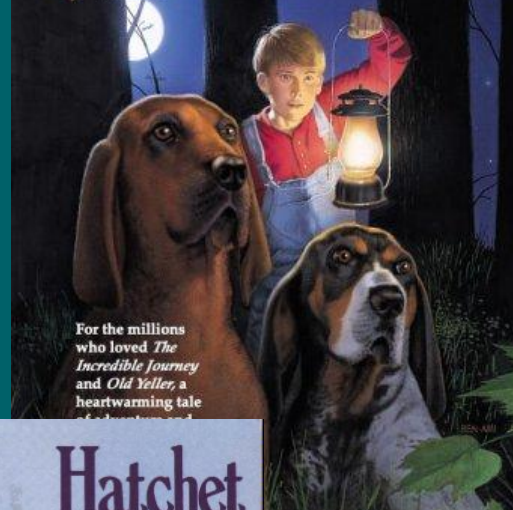
My Side of the Mountain

The classic story
of wilderness survival



WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS

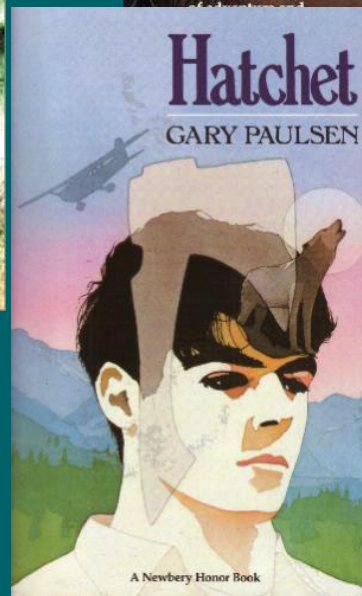
Wilson Rawls



For the millions
who loved *The
Incredible Journey*
and *Old Yeller*, a
heartwarming tale
of friendship and
adventure.

Hatchet

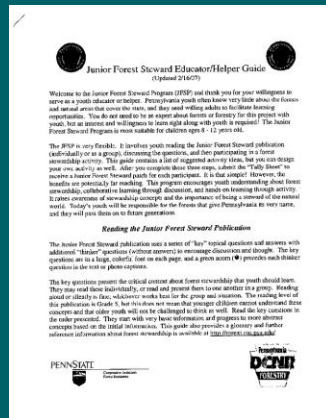
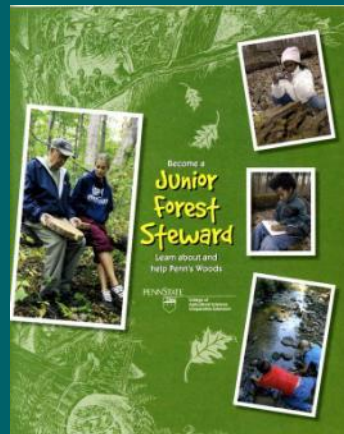
GARY PAULSEN



A Newbery Honor Book

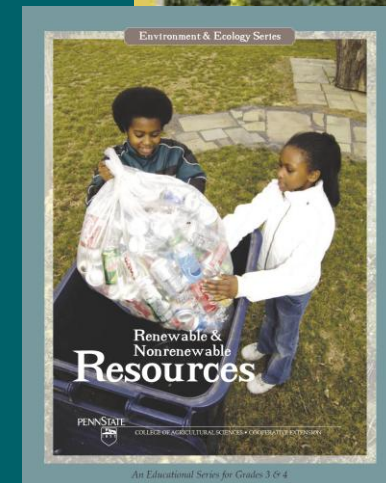
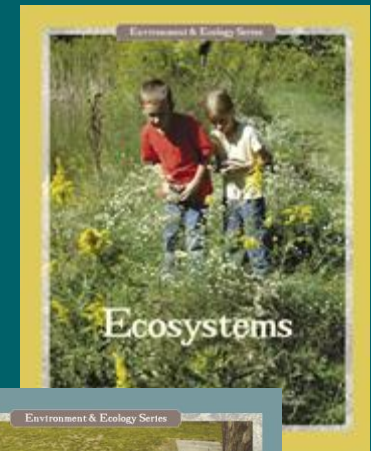
The Junior Forest Steward Program

- Interactive publication
- Reading, discussion, & activity (4rd-6th grade reading)
- Patch recognition



The *Environment and Ecology Series*

- 3rd-4th grade reading level
- State E&E standards Info.
- Web site and lesson plans
 - Ecosystems
 - Renewable & Non-Renewable Resources
 - Wetlands & Watersheds
 - Threatened & Endangered Wildlife



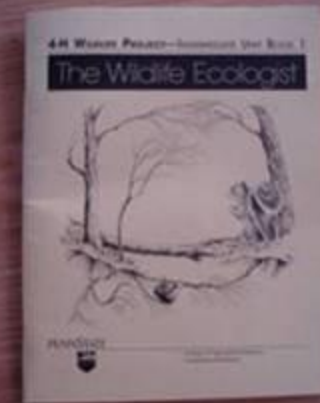
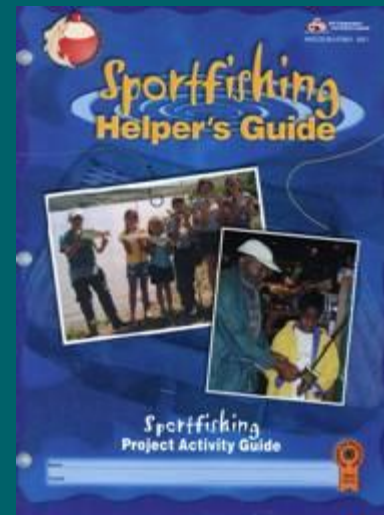
From the Woods Series

- A curriculum resource
- Fifteen, full color flyers
- 6th-8th grade reading level
- Key natural resources and forest product topics
- Available in hard and digital (web) versions, with lesson plans and quizzes



4-H Programs for Natural Resources Education

- Traditional projects in forestry, wildlife, fish, orienteering, and water topics
- all levels
- Used in clubs, schools and afterschool settings



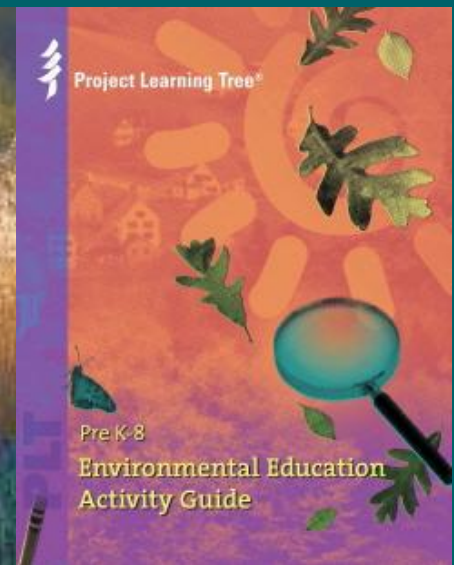
Sharing Nature with Children, I and II

By Joseph B. Cornell



Project Wild & Project Learning Tree ("PLT")

- Environmental education guides for wildlife and forestry
- K-8 activities
- Used widely in schools and nature centers



People Resources

- Service Foresters
- Fellow PAFS
- Extension Educators
- Professional Foresters
- Local Treasures
- Con. District Staff
- Formal Educators
- Non-Formal Educators
- PA State Park EE Interpreters
- Scout Leaders
- Family Members



Tie Into Your Interests



An Example of... Teaching Forest Stewardship through a Personal Interest





“Who You Gonna Call?”



Real Life PAFS Requests...

- *What do you need to consider in regards to youth protection?*
- *What are your logistic strengths and constraints?*
- *What follow-up questions might you need to ask?*
- *Who or what might be a helpful resource?*
- *What will you plan to do and what materials will you need?*

Bottom Line: Include Youth*

And Follow the Guidelines for Youth Protection!

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- In your forest stewardship plans
- In your PAFS work and activities
 - (family, neighbors, schools, youth groups)
- In adult education programs/events
 - (WOA, Coop. Extension, Bur. Of Forestry, Conservation District)



I'm Here To Help!

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Don't Hesitate To
Contact Me!

PENNSTATE



Penn State **Extension**

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce

