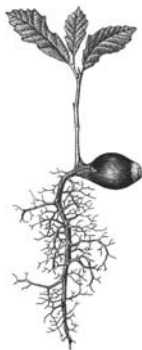


NATURE



NOTES

Outdoor Lore, Learning, and Activities for

Families and Nature Lovers of All Ages



WINTER WOODS and WONDERLANDS

In this Issue.....

- Hibernation: Nature's Sleep Mode
- Backyard Banquet: Feeding our Feathered Friends
- O Tannenbaum! A guide to Evergreens
- Native American History and Stories
- Build your own Igloo

It happens every year, yet somehow always catches me by surprise...winter is upon us again. The fingers of frost and ice stretch their way across the lake, ponds and marshes, silence descends in the absence of insects and summer song-birds. While many people and animals brace themselves against the chill, others embrace the time of rest and repose that winter ushers in. Any undone outdoor tasks will have to wait for spring as the ground is covered in a blanket of white, brought in by a raging blizzard. There is nothing subtle about winter's entrance this year!

How we choose to spend the winter is up to us of course. The young and young at heart will bound out into a winter wonderland full of adventure

.....sledding, skiing, fort building, snowmen, and survival. Some animals hibernate until the warm sun coaxes them out come spring. As I curl up under my down comforter on frigid mornings, new fernlike fronds of frost on the windowpane, it seems a wise and understandable choice! Still, the winter woods beckon...with the sparkle of new fallen snow crystals glistening in the bright sunlight, the chatter of chickadees, the Christmas red of the cardinal, and the tracks of the creatures that scurry through the snow. With all of its neighbors bare, the quiet eternal beauty of the evergreen stands out, a source of shelter and promise that, while all may appear lifeless, it is only an illusion. Winter is traditionally time to return to home and hearth,

to the family and comfort we all share. For Native Americans, winter was the time when the stories were shared, passing on customs and knowledge from one generation to the next. It was a time of survival, but also for indoor tasks, making practical and ceremonial objects for use in the coming year. I often think of how nature has its eternal cycles that seem to echo in our routines, no matter how "modern" we get. We are as much a part of nature as it is a part of us. So next time you linger under the covers, or while away a winter evening engaged in a book or craft, enjoy feeling the restful rhythm of the season..... and a long winter's nap!

WINTER...It's for the Birds!

Though many of our feathered friends head south for the winter months, there are still many that stay. By fluffing their insulating feathers, taking shelter in tree branches and cavities, and having a reliable food source, they can do quite well. You can help birds survive the winter and enjoy some great opportunities to view them up close by putting up a bird feeder or two in your yard. Depending on what you pro-

vide for food, you can attract quite a few different types of winter resident birds.

Who might come to visit your feeder? Cardinals, Blue jays, Black-capped Chickadees, Mourning Doves. Gray Juncos, Nuthatches, Goldfinches, Purple Finches, and Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers are some of our most common backyard birds. There are so many types of birdfeeders to choose from, it's hard to

know where to start! Most species of birds prefer one type of feeder over another, so a little research is in order. Inside this issue, you'll find some handy tips on planning a successful backyard bird banquet. It may take a little work, but your efforts will be rewarded with the bright colors and perky ways of our feathered friends bringing much-needed cheer to the winter landscape!



HIBERNATION.....The Long Winter's Nap

Animals have developed many ways to adapt to our harsh northern winters. Some migrate to warmer climates, some stay and tough it out, while others hibernate.

What exactly is hibernation? It's a deep resting state that some animals go into where their bodily functions slow way down, conserving precious energy for the time when they awaken again in spring. Hibernation is a way that animals can survive through the winter when food is scarce, since an inactive animal uses less energy.

While we often think of bears when we think of hibernation, many animals that live here in our neck of the woods (or fields) pass their winters in slumber. There are two kinds of hibernation; true hibernation and *torpor*. True hibernators, like woodchucks, bats, ground squirrels, and chipmunks, go into such a deep state of rest that they appear dead!

Perhaps the most well-known hibernator in our area is the woodchuck. They enter their dens in the fall and go into a state of hibernation. Their heart rate goes from 80 beats a minute when active to 4 or 5 beats

a minute when in hibernation. Its body temperature drops from 98 degrees to 38 degrees Fahrenheit. The woodchuck is also known as the Groundhog, whose greatly anticipated awakening in spring has brought about a holiday to observe the occasion! Groundhog's Day, on February 2nd, marks the half-way point between winter and spring.

Many mammals, like skunks, opossums, raccoons, and bears don't actually sleep solidly through the winter, but instead enter a state of *torpor*; a deep sleep that can last for days or weeks on end. Their body temperature lowers and their heart rate goes down, but Not as dramatically the true hibernators. These animals are more easily roused, awakening periodically

to feed on some stored food or venture out briefly during a warm spell to find a snack. Animals put on a layer of special fat before hibernation that provides a slow-burning fuel to help them get by until spring. Most also have a stash of food they can nibble on in their dens.

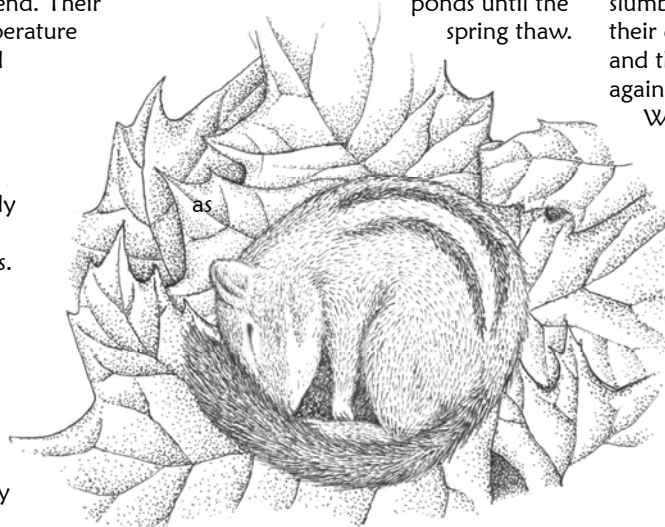
Reptiles, such as snakes and turtles, also hibernate. Snakes are very active in late fall, searching for a suitable hibernation spot under a rock or log.

Amphibians also hibernate, burrowing down into the mud at the bottom of marshes and ponds until the spring thaw.

Our frogs, toads and salamanders would literally freeze to death if they did not have this ability to overwinter.

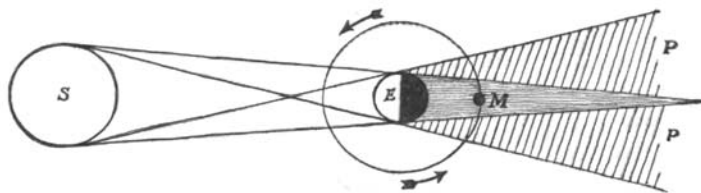
There have even been some accounts of humans hibernating! In one area of northern Russia, legend has it that the peasants would finish all of the work for the fall, bringing in the harvest and baking enough hard bread to last through the winter months. They would all gather around the woodstove and go to sleep, waking briefly once a day for a bite of bread, a drink of water, and to stoke up the stove. They then return to their slumber, not emerging from their cabins until spring came and the growing season began again.

While it may sound tempting, think of all the fun and wonder of the winter season we would miss! I'd rather rather follow the example of deer, fox, and other active mammals... wear a warm coat, hunker down in the storms, and make tracks when the sun shines again!



KEEP an EYE on the NIGHTTIME SKY

December brings a special treat this year for moon and star gazers, with a total lunar eclipse on the longest night of the year, the Winter Solstice. On December 21st, we can expect to see the full moon in the eastern sky darken and turn red for about an hour as it passes through the shadow of the earth. These celestial events were often regarded as ominous, or bringing bad luck, by ancient peoples who did not understand the workings of the solar system and attributed it to the workings of the gods. Still, even without the element of mystical superstition,



you may find it worth getting up between 1:30 and 3 a.m. for an event you'll not see again in this part of the world until 2014. During the Winter Solstice, the sun appears to hang briefly on the horizon before setting for several days in a row, then days begin to lengthen as we head toward spring. By February 2 (Ground Hog's Day) we're half way to spring. Until then

though, there is much cold, as the most frigid temperatures are often in January or February. Lit by the light of the silvery full moons on January 18 and February 18th, the new-fallen snow will shine like silver, trees casting long shadows in its light. These full moons during the snowy months often give us the best visibility for a night walk in our winter wonderland.

Full Moon Dates

December 21

Winter solstice

Full Moon (Cold Moon)

Lunar Eclipse

January 19

Full Moon (Wolf Moon)

February 18

Full Moon (Snow Moon)

Winter's Visible Planets

Morning Twilight...Venus, Saturn, Mercury.

Evening Twilight...Jupiter, Uranus, Neptune

NATIVE AMERICANS.....History and Traditions

Who Was Here Before Us?

By Fawn YoungBear-Tibbets

Wisconsin has a rich history of Native American cultures. As soon as the Glaciers moved out, people moved in and they left their mark on an amazing landscape that we can still see today. When the first Europeans arrived it is said that they would have found 20,000 or more Native American earthen mounds scattering the riverbanks and landscape we now call Wisconsin. Today there are less than 4,000 left. I wrote this first because it is important to remember that this is a built, "living landscape" and that because of the past and rich cultural history we have some great learning opportunities here in the DeJope (Ho-Chunk name for the Four Lakes), area.

There were many mound building cultures in the Americas. The three groups of mound building cultures that lived in Wisconsin are called the Hopewell, Oneota, and Mississippian cultures by Archeologists.

Today the people we call the Ho-Chunk are the direct descendants of the Oneota people. They built mainly three kinds of mounds in our part of Wisconsin: Conical, mounds in the shapes of circles or cones; Linear, long and straight mounds; and Effigy, mounds shaped like animals, spirits, and even people.

Conical and Linear mounds are the older of the three kinds, dating back to the late Archaic period and are the type of mounds that were mainly used for burials, although burials have been found throughout mound sites.

Effigy mounds can be found in a variety of shapes. These shapes are representative of the clan systems of the Oneota. Bird and sky animal shaped mounds represent the Sky Clans, or upper world clans. Bear, human and other animal shapes represent the earth or middle world clans. The mounds identified as water panther are representations of the water or lower world clans.

Clans are an important part of all tribal systems, even today. Your clan would determine what role or job you would have in your community and would in many cases even determine whom you could marry, as we are not allowed to marry within the clan we belong to.

Throughout time people have come up with many ideas about who built the mounds and why they were built. For a long time, some people even thought they could have been "built by giants" or "lost races". We know today they were built by the forefathers of today's Ho-Chunk Nation. We know that the mounds were built over very long peri-

ods of time, sometimes taking generations to complete. Soil would have been hauled, in some cases, thousands of miles and some of the mounds in Dane County even contain a shell and ash layer. The mounds are still considered Sacred Lands which continues to strengthen the relationship the people have with the land.

Native American tribes have what is known as an oral history. They have passed down their information by word of mouth throughout time. Stories were used to pass the knowledge of the tribe (history, cultural values, and in some cases even their science and mathematical systems) from one generation to the next. In many cases some stories are only told to tribal members while others may have been published and are available to anyone. Storytelling could be considered by some a fine art today. Usually elders and tribal leaders were responsible for passing their tribal stories to the younger generations and most tribes in this region tell certain stories only during the winter months.

Many stories were told to help kids learn many of life's lessons. You have probably heard similar European life lesson stories before like "The Boy Who Cried Wolf". I have included one for you to read as a family called "The Fox and the Grease Kettle":

"The animals held a council to determine who should carry the most fat on their bodies. In the center of the council lodge sat a large kettle of grease or fat which was to be divided up among them. Suddenly, the crafty Fox jumped into it and came out very fat. The Bear, who was the leader of the council, told all the other animals to quickly catch the Fox and hold him. They caught him and all the fat was squeezed out of him except a little above his front legs. Because of his tricks, he was cast out of the council. Then all of the other animals took their turn in entering the grease kettle and each came out with the proper amount of fat on their bodies. That is why the fox is never fat."

A similar story is told by many tribes and it teaches us about patience, following directions, and the consequences that can follow when we don't. I hope you have enjoyed the story and have learned a little about the people of this region.

Fawn YoungBear -Tibbets is a Ho-Chunk tribal member and graduate student at UW-Madison. She works with the University of Wisconsin Arboretum Earth Partnerships for Schools program, educating youth about Native American culture and land restoration.



MORE WINTER STORIES

Here are two traditional stories for you to enjoy.....



Black and White Moons

by Oliver LaMère and Harold B. Shinn

In the time of beginnings, the good spirits and the evil spirits met in council to determine how the world should be divided between them. First they took up the question of how many moons there should be from one winter to the next. Wild Turkey (Zizikega) strutted before them and spread his tail feathers, declaring, "Let a year be as many moons as there are spots on my tail." But the council of spirits voted this down, as there were far too many spots on his tail. Partridge also suggested that there should be as

many moons in a year as there were spots on his tail, but the spirits felt that it was also too long a time. Then Chipmunk (Hetcgenika) scampered up throwing its tail over its head as chipmunks always do, and said, "Let a year be as many moons as there are black and white stripes down my back." The counselors thought well of this suggestion, and allowed that the six black stripes would be the summer moons, and the six white stripes would be the moons of winter.

The evil spirits are greedy, however. They always wish for darkness, so when they saw the bright white disc of the moon and how it lit up the world, they began to eat the Night

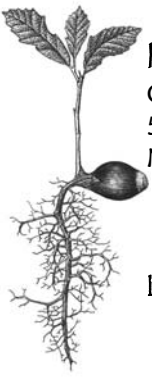
Luminary away until nothing was left of it. But Earthmaker was not content to see his creation consumed, leaving a dark world as a cover for evil, so he recreated the moon a little each night until at the end of fourteen nights it was full again. Then Earthmaker rested. While the Creator took leave, the evil spirits again gnawed away at the moon until it was completely consumed. And so it continues, with Earthmaker ever renewing the moon and his enemies forever eating it away.

Bird Origin Myth

by Thomas Foster

The first birds created by Earth

maker were the Thunders, who can make themselves invisible. As the Thunderbirds traversed the heavens, they would occasionally lose a feather. From such feathers, the visible birds sprang into existence. From the largest quill feathers of the Thunders there came into being the race of eagles; from other large feathers came the race of hawks and their kind; from the small feathers came such birds as partridges; from the down feathers came the small birds like robins and pigeons; and from the mere fuzz of down feathers emerged the very smallest of birds, such as sparrows and hummingbirds. All birds, therefore, are descended from the Thunders.



McFarland School District
Outdoor Education
5101 Farwell Street
McFarland, WI 53558

LIVE.....LEARN.....GROW

OUTDOOR EDUCATION Updates and Events

A Note of Gratitude

Thanks to all of our friends of the forest (and prairie!) who have helped support our program over the past year. Whether you donated your time, labor, money, or your encouragement, it has been much appreciated!

Outdoor Education Committee Meeting

February 7, 2011

Third quarter meeting MHS Room 181 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Volunteer Work Days

Second and Fourth Saturdays of the month.

9 a.m. to Noon

Weather permitting in winter...please call ahead to check on conditions! 444-0190

Get your plaid on....It's time for the Second Annual
McFARLAND SCHOOL FOREST

LUMBERJACK COMPETITION!

Bonfire and Sledding

All ages welcome!

Saturday, January 29th, 2011

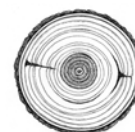
10 a.m. to Noon

McFarland School Forest next to
Indian Mound Middle School

Two-person teams compete on crosscut saw for
best log-sawing time and PRIZES!

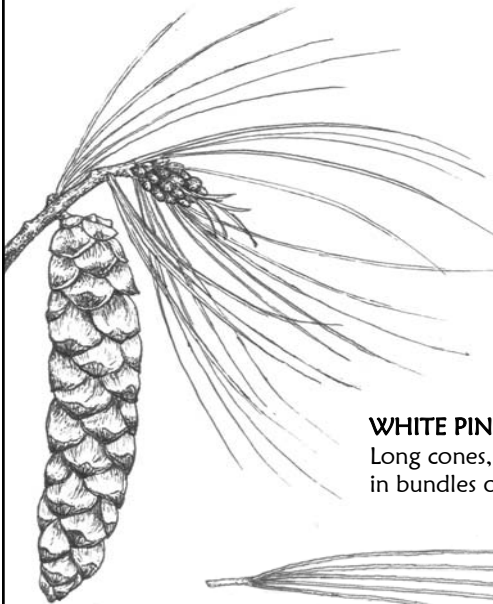
SIGN UP

Contact Janet Moore at 444-0190 or
janet_moore@mcfarland.k12.wi.us



KNOW your EVERGREENS

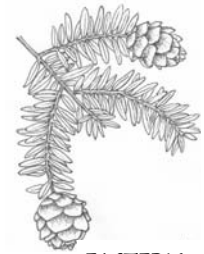
There are several species of native evergreen trees in our area. Besides providing beauty all year round, they also are a source of food and cover for birds and other wildlife. Next time it snows, look around the base of evergreen trees to see who has been taking shelter from winter storms underneath their spreading branches!



WHITE PINE
Long cones, needles in bundles of five.



BLACK SPRUCE
Short needles, many small cones, branches low to ground.



EASTERN HEMLOCK
Tiny cones, needles flat and opposite along branch

RED PINE
Cone is short and round, needles in bundles of two

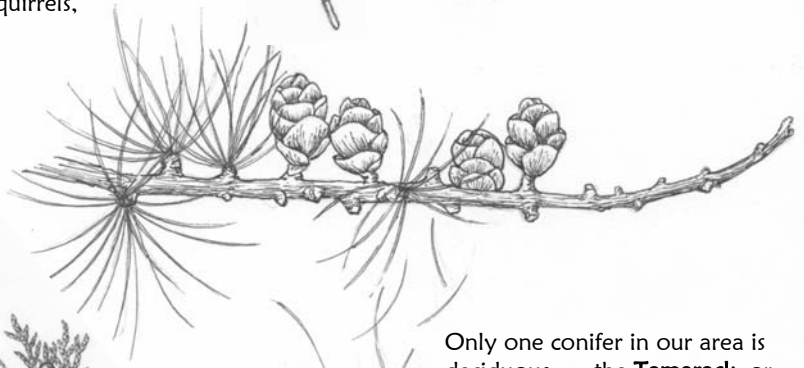
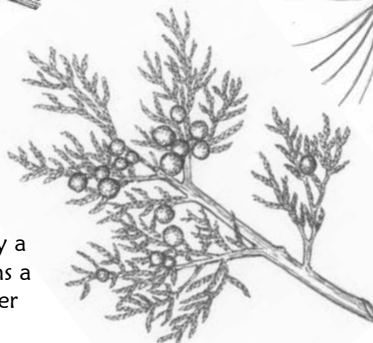


Evergreens are also called "conifers" because they usually produce cones. The cones conceal and protect the seeds inside. Many birds and animals, like chipmunks and squirrels, will eat seeds they find in cones.

WHITE CEDAR is also known as Arbor Vitae



RED CEDAR is actually a type of juniper. It turns a bronzed color in winter and has bluish berries.



Only one conifer in our area is deciduousthe **Tamarack**, or **Larch**. These trees drop their needles in fall and grow new ones again in the spring . If you see one in winter, you might mistake it for dead!

The Legend of the Evergreens

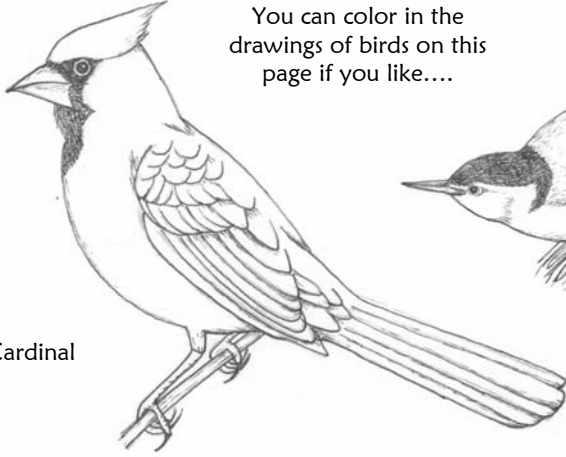
A Cherokee legend tells the story of a small sparrow who could not fly south with its bird family. The sparrow was injured with a broken wing, and needed to find a warm place to stay for the winter. The sparrow asked an oak tree if it could stay in its leaves for the winter, but the oak tree refused, fearing the bird might eat some of its precious acorns. The sparrow then asked a maple tree, and the maple tree also said no, it had to help the birds of his own forest and he did not take in strangers. Finally, the sparrow asked a spruce tree, and the spruce agreed to let the sparrow take shelter under its dense branches for the winter. The pine, seeing this, volunteered to protect the spruce and the bird from the north wind with its branches. Even the little juniper chimed in and offered the bird its berries to eat for winter food. The bird spent the winter in comfort and was able to fly and rejoin its flock in the spring. The Creator saw all this, and as a reward, let the pine, spruce, and juniper trees keep their needles all year long, while the other trees were punished by losing their leaves in the fall. That is how they became evergreens.

FEEDING BACKYARD BIRDS

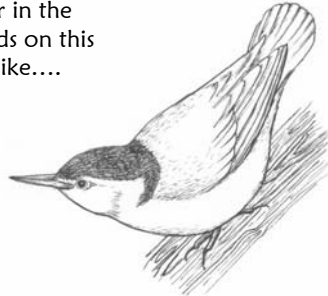
A guide to planning your backyard banquet

GUESTS

You can color in the drawings of birds on this page if you like....



Cardinal



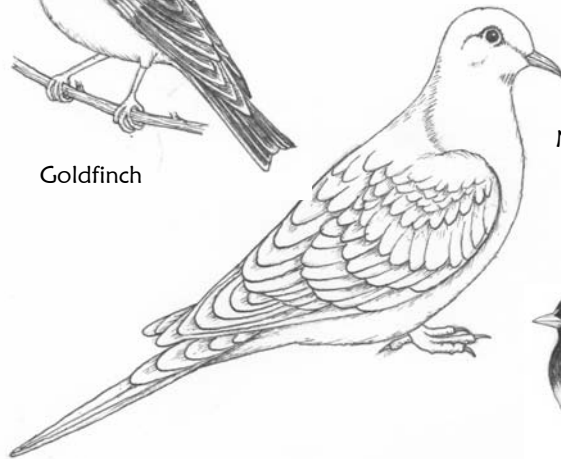
White-Breasted Nuthatch



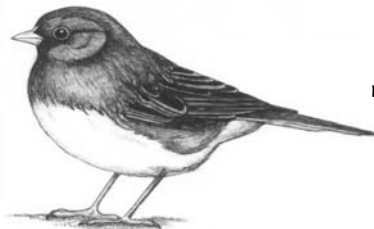
Blue Jay



Goldfinch



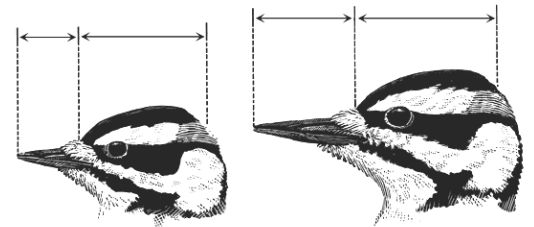
Mourning Dove



Junco

MENU IDEAS

| BIRD | TYPE OF FOOD |
|-------------------------|--|
| Cardinal | sunflower, safflower, peanuts, cracked corn, white millet, |
| Goldfinch | Niger thistle seed, hulled sunflower |
| Blue jay | whole corn, striped sunflower, peanuts, suet mixtures |
| Chickadee | sunflower, safflower, suet mixtures, peanuts, thistle, peanut butter |
| White-breasted nuthatch | sunflower, safflower, suet mixtures, peanuts, peanut butter, |
| Woodpeckers | suet and suet mixtures, cracked corn, peanuts, fruit |
| Mourning Dove | cracked corn, white and red millet, safflower, thistle, wheat |



Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers look very much alike. The Hairy (right) is slightly larger, its beak almost half as long as its head.

Uninvited Guests...what to do?

In addition to your bird friends, other animals may show up to either steal food or prey on your guests. Squirrels are notorious for raiding bird feeders. Try putting your feeder on a pole with a baffle (a circular piece of metal) to keep them from climbing up to it. Or give them their own squirrel feeder stocked with corn on the cob. Cats will prey on songbirds, so keep them indoors. Try mounting a feeder on the window for hours of quality feline entertainment!

GOURMET RECIPES

Pine Cone Bird Feeder

What You Need:

wax paper, pine or other cone, string, peanut butter (or shortening if anyone has peanut allergies,) butter knife, bird seed, and scissors.

What to Do

Spread the peanut butter or shortening inside the openings all around the center and bottom of the cone and fill up the spaces.

Spread bird seed of your choice on the wax paper. Take the cone and roll it in the bird seed so that the seeds stick to the peanut butter all around the outside. You may also want to sprinkle seeds inside any openings.

Measure your string to hang down from a branch of a tree or bush so that it is far enough from the squirrels from eating your feeder. Tie the string to the top of the pine cone and then to the tree



Black-capped Chickadees

Suet feeders will also attract nuthatches, woodpeckers, and others.

Suet Feeder

What You Need:

plastic onion or potato sack, wax paper, string, scissors, suet (ask for this at the meat counter of your local grocery store), and bird seed

What to Do

Cut a piece of wax paper to about 8" x 10." Sprinkle seeds on the wax paper, then take out your suet and roll it onto the seeds, completely covering it. Now make a ball out of your suet and place it into the plastic onion or potato sack.

Cut the sack to fit the size of your suet ball and tie off the top with your string. Be sure to leave a long end on it in order to hang it from the tree.

Hang the suet feeder far from the tree trunk to keep other critters from making off with the entire feeder.



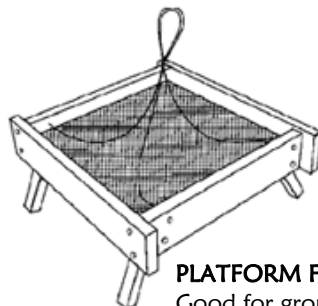
TYPES of BIRD FEEDERS

Presentation and atmosphere are also important. You want your backyard guests to feel comfortable. Some like to eat on the ground, while others prefer hanging feeders. All birds appreciate some nearby cover so they can quickly escape predators, or take shelter from the elements. Give your old Christmas tree another use by putting it next to your bird feeders.



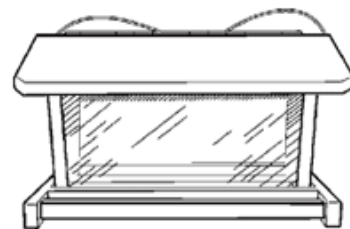
SEED TUBE

Preferred by Goldfinches, also good for Chickadees and other small-bodied birds.



PLATFORM FEEDER

Good for ground feeders like Mourning Doves, Jays and Juncos



HOPPER FEEDER

Best all-purpose feeder, will attract most birds and holds a good supply of seed. Cardinals like these feeders.

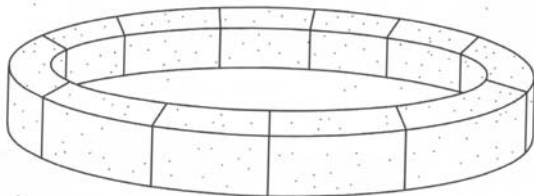
Build Your Own Igloo

HOW TO BUILD AN IGLOO
AND OTHER SNOW SHELTERS Bert L. Yankielun

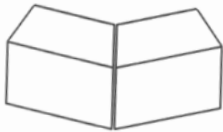


If the snow is deep enough this winter, you might want to try your hand at building an igloo. These snow shelters are surprisingly warm inside, if you build them right. The sketches below, from *How to Build an Igloo and Other Snow Shelters* by Bert Yankielun can help get you started. This book is an absolute MUST for winter fort building how-to's!

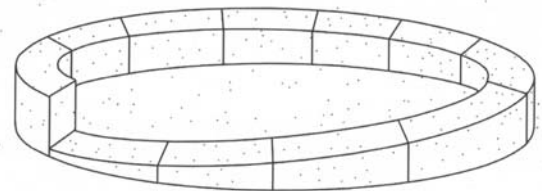
First, you will need to find a deep enough snowdrift to saw some blocks. If that's not possible, try making blocks using a square plastic container for a mold. Pack the snow down firmly in a circle for the floor of your igloo.



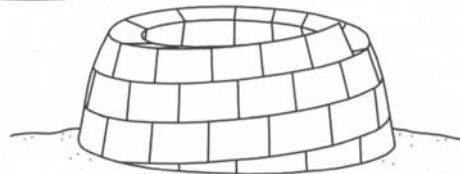
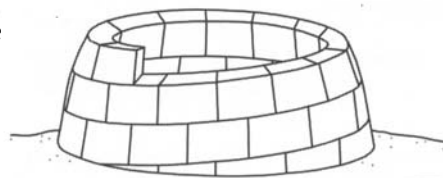
Arrange the blocks in a circle



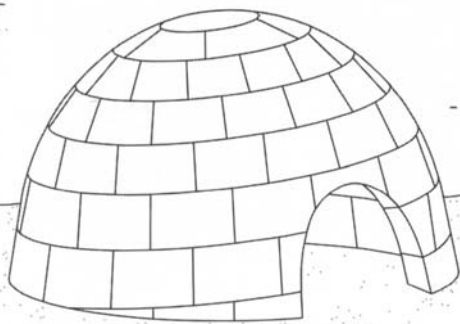
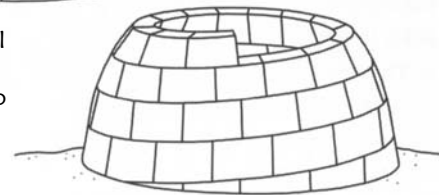
Miter the blocks (cut at an angle) on the edges so they will form a curve.



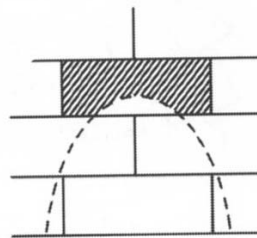
Using your saw, cut the top of the row of blocks in an upward spiral.



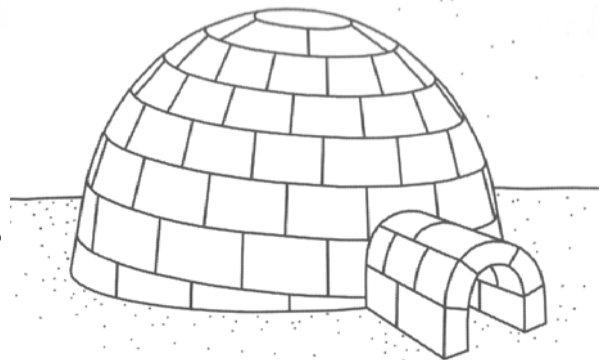
Keep adding rows in this manner until you are nearly to the top. It helps to have someone inside the igloo to help hold blocks.



Cut a hole in the side for a door, and a small hole (about 6 " diameter) in the roof for an air vent. Air vents are a MUST to let in some fresh air to breathe!



Make sure to place the top of the arch of the door under a solid block (not a joint)



Build an entryway over the door, and you're done. Pack snow into any cracks between blocks.

SNOW DAYS

The best day to build an igloo is, of course, a snow day, if conditions are otherwise right. You can always try these time-tested tricks to increase the chances of a snow day the next day. These work best when a large overnight snowfall is predicted.



- Sleep with a spoon under your pillow.
- Sleep with pajamas inside out and/or backwards.
- Flush 3 ice cubes down the toilet before going to bed.
- Do a snow dance outside in your backwards pajamas.



"May you have warmth in your igloo, oil in your lamp, and peace in your heart" -Eskimo Proverb

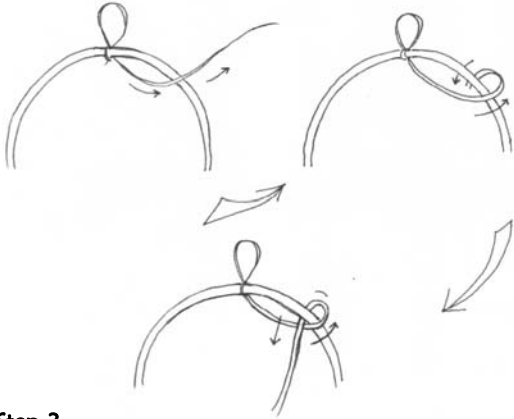
Make a Native American Dreamcatcher

According to legend, these were hung over the bed of infants and children to “catch” bad dreams. Made from a round hoop bent from a twig or vine, sinew or plant fibers were strung to resemble a spider web that could trap those nightmares that sometimes disturb our sleep. Add a feather and a bead of your choosing for a personal finishing touch and hang by your bed for peaceful slumbers.

To begin....Make a 4 to 5 inch diameter hoop by bending a fresh twig, overlapping the ends, and tying together. Birch, willow or red dogwood works well.

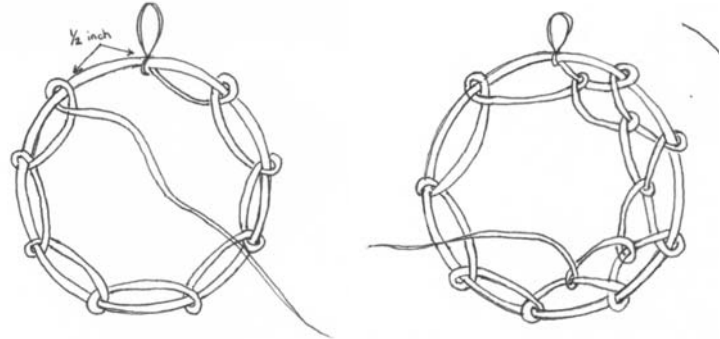
Step 1

Cut a 2 - 3 foot long piece of string or fake sinew (available at hobby stores) and tie a series of half hitch knots around the hoop about a half inch apart.



Step 2

When you reach your starting point, tie more knots halfway in between the first ones, pulling the string snug as you go.



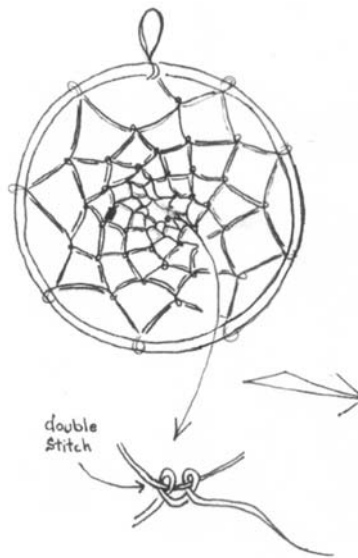
Step 3

Keep adding rows in this way to form a web until there is only a small hole left in the middle. String a bead onto one of the rows.

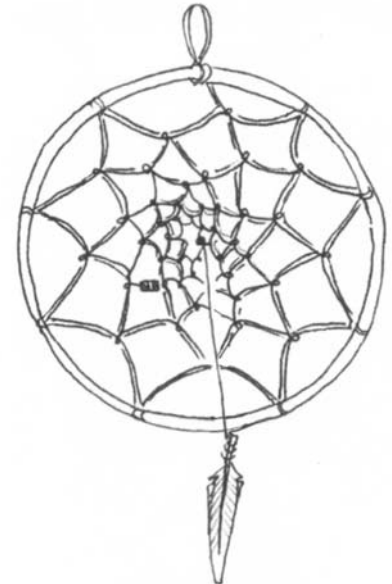


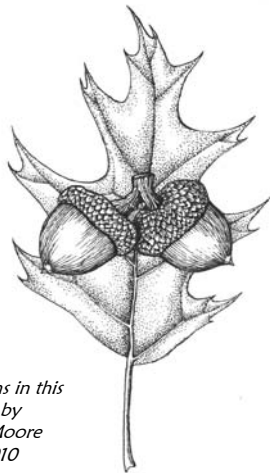
Step 4

Tie off as shown, leaving a tail to tie on a feather.



Hang your dreamcatcher above your bed. Sweet Dreams!





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TO LEARN MORE.....

Here is a list of a few books and websites where you can learn more about the subjects in this newsletter.

Birds and Bird Feeding

Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project Feeder Watch

Become a participant and help science with data from your observations.

http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/Overview/over_index.html

Books

Backyard Bird Feeder's Bible: The A-to-Z Guide To Feeders, Seed Mixes, Projects And Treats by Sally Roth

Bird Feeding: Tips for Beginners and Veterans by Scott Craven UW Extension Publication

<http://learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/G3176.PDF>

Hibernation

Books

Hibernation by Margaret Hall

Animals in Winter by Henrietta Bancroft

The Animals' Winter Sleep by Lynda Graham-Barber

Winter World by Bernd Heinrich (Older readers)

Evergreens

LEAF School Forest Program Online tree ID Great Photos of native Wisconsin trees.

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf/Treekey/tkframe.htm>

Book

Where Would I Be in an Evergreen Tree? By Jennifer Blomgren

Native American History

The McFarland Historical Society has a very nice display of artifacts and Native American life in this area. Open to the public Sundays 1-3 pm. Memorial through Labor Day or by appointment. Contact Wes Licht 838-8178

Books

Native People of Wisconsin (New Badger History) by Patty Loew

Indian Mounds of Wisconsin by Robert A. Birmingham

Igloos

Book

How to Build an Igloo And Other Snow Shelters by Norbert E. Yankielun

Online Igloo Building Guide at eHow.com

http://www.ehow.com/how_2386621_build-igloo.html

Astronomy

Shadow and Substance Great interactive animated models of lunar eclipses and more

<http://www.shadowandsubstance.com/>

Like what you see in this issue of Nature Notes?

Join us in our efforts to encourage kids of all ages and their families to get outdoors and explore nature!

Through school-day field trips and activities, community events, and service projects, the McFarland School District is committed to good stewardship of our natural resources and education of our youth.

Your tax-deductible donation will support these efforts, providing funding for:

- Guest speakers and naturalists for quality programs
- Trees, plants, and seeds for our school forest and prairie
- Public trail maintenance
- Supplies and equipment for summer classes and school year activities.

Yes! I would like to support outdoor education in McFarland through the following donation:
All memberships include the Nature Notes quarterly newsletter, updates and notification of events through our email list.
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