

## General Education/Outdoor Education Bibliography

Northern Kentucky University  
Center for Environmental Education

5/03

**THE BACKYARD NATURALIST.** Craig Tufts. National Wildlife Federation, 1993. ISBN 0912186-93-3.

**SHARING THE JOY OF NATURE.** Joseph Cornell. Dawn Publications, 1989. ISBN 0-916124-52-5.

**TEN-MINUTE FIELDTRIPS.** Helen Ross Russell. J.G. Ferguson Publishing Company, 1973. ISBN 0-385-05854-3. A Teacher's Guide to Using the Schoolgrounds for Environmental Studies. School yard biology is used to develop key science process skills and integrate classroom and field learning. Perfect for teachers with limited budgets for field trips. You will be amazed at the activities that are found just outside your door. Ages 8-12. #EE-1108. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**HANDS ON NATURE—INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES FOR EXPLORING THE ENVIRONMENT WITH CHILDREN.** Joseph Lingelbach and Lisa Purcell. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 2000. ISBN 1-584465-078-8. REVISED. All the guidance you need to develop activities for the classroom and outdoors. Multi-disciplinary approach, linking science, the visual and performing arts. Contains over two hundred pages of easy to develop, field and classroom tested activities. One of the first handbooks of its kind, and to this day, one of the best. For grades K-6. #EE-320. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**DEVELOPING, USING, AND MAINTAINING OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS IN KENTUCKY.** Kentucky Environmental Education Council, 1996.  
<http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/envred/>

**SHARING NATURE WITH CHILDREN.** Joseph Cornell. Dawn Publications, 1998. ISBN1-8832220-73-4. REVISED 20th Anniversary Edition. One of the first and best nature exploration books for children has now been revised and expanded. Features intriguing explorations, games and practical ideas for outdoor and environmental educators. Useful guide for educators and parents who wish to nurture a sense of wonder in children. #EE-1112. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**A SENSE OF PLACE, TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT WITH PICTURE BOOKS.** Daniel A. Kriesberg. Teacher Idea Press, 1999. ISBN 1-56308-565-8. Blends quality children's literature with outdoor activities that cultivate a child's sense of living in harmony with nature. The projects span the curriculum and are presented in an easy to use, reproducible format. Highlighting the five senses, these activities build connections between students and the land. K-6. #EE-8020. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**HENRY DAVID'S HOUSE.** Thoreau, edited by Steven Schnur. NEW. In 1845, Henry David Thoreau began to build a small house on the shores of Walden Pond. His journals lead to his philosophical masterpiece, Walden, or Life in the Woods. Using Thoreau's own words, this book highlights his belief in the inherent value of living simply and in harmony with nature. Lush, impressionistic paintings bring the seasons to life in this beautiful work for children ages 5-9. #B-11087. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**SECRET PLACE.** Bunting. A sensitive message about an urban refuge, conveyed with words and art. Tucked in the middle of a busy city is a river that offers refuge for ducks, an egret, coyote, and opossum. It is a secret place, known only to a few who visit. For ages 5-9. #CDEB-5033. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**THE LORAX.** Dr. Seuss. First published in 1971, this classic book continues to offer a timely message regarding biodiversity. The "Once-ler" reminds us that "unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better - it's not." Enjoyed by children ages 7-12. #CDEB-2218. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**GRANDAD'S PRAYERS OF THE EARTH.** Wood. Beautiful book by the author of the best-selling book Old Turtle. "Grandad and I liked to go for walks in the woods together. We didn't walk very far. Or very fast. Or very straight..." A compelling, heartwarming story of how a boy, many years after his grandfathers passing, grew to understand what his gentle and wise grandfather was teaching him. A brief yet powerful, moving book. Perfect for ages 5-10. #B-8046. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**WHEN WOMAN BECAME THE SEA.** Strauss. Fascinating story of creation as told by the Cabecar and Bribri people from the rain forests of Costa Rica. In a lyrical, allegorical style, this wonderful tale explains the origin of the land and sea. The colorful, vivid artwork by Cristina Acosta lends an authentic, energetic Central American atmosphere to this engaging story. Ages 5-12. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**HEY, LITTLE ANT.** Hoose. Wonderful, song-based children's picture book that uses empathy to teach children about alternatives to violent and bullying behavior. Story involves a negotiation between an ant about to be flattened and the child who is threatening it. The outcome is unresolved, leaving a perfect opportunity for discussions on what the child should do next. Lessons and suggestions for classroom discussion are provided. A creative and nonthreatening way to introduce an important topic to children ages 4-9. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**I WISH I WERE A BUTTERFLY.** Howe. Perceiving himself ugly, a cricket longs to be a butterfly and seeks counsel from his friends at Swampswallow Pond. Spider, the Old One, helps him see his beauty within, claiming that if she were to believe what everyone says, she would think herself to be quite ugly. Realizing the value of their friendship and that of himself, the cricket at last views himself as special. Ages 4-8. #CDEB-2189. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**OLD TURTLE.** Wood. Tells a story of global understanding and environmental concern. Book-list Review states “In an eloquent fable illustrated with sumptuous watercolors ... the message about peace and environmental awareness is delivered with a light, graceful touch.” Book of the Year Award. Ages 7-12. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**WHO REALLY KILLED COCK ROBIN? AN ECOLOGICAL MYSTERY.** Craighead George. The death of Cock Robin is a significant clue in an ecological mystery, and a young boy is determined to find the culprit. The town he lives in is riddled with problems, including an overpopulation of ants and a sudden absence of frogs. Using science and determination, he solves the mystery. Ages 8-12. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**STELLALUNA.** Cannon. Lovely story about a baby fruit-eating bat who becomes separated from her mother before she is old enough to fly. As circumstance have it, she is then raised by birds and grows up eating bugs until she is again united with her real mother. A wonderful tale of adaptation, understanding and friendship. For ages 5-10. #B-10085. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**WHO IS THE WORLD FOR.** Pow, Ingpen. NEW. From the baby bear in her winter cave to the human boy looking out the window of his city house, all ask the question, “Who is the world for?” Many animals ask, but in the end, the answer is the same - the world is for all of them. Beautiful paintings support a powerful message of striving for mutual respect and understanding. Ages 5-9. #B-10099. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**IF THE WORLD WERE A VILLAGE, A Book About the World’s People.** Smith. NEW book expands children’s vision of the world by shrinking the world down to 100 people, and then discussing how those people are categorized (30 out of 100 are under 19 years old, 17 cannot read or write, 22 speak Chinese etc). Wonderful way to introduce children to the diverse, global village we live in, encouraging them to embrace the bigger picture with the goal of reducing prejudice and narrow-mindedness that can cause both interpersonal and even national conflict. #EE-10180. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**BACKYARD DETECTIVE,** Critters Up Close. Bishop. NEW book explores the mini-wilds outside one’s door. Young nature detectives will discover more than 125 different creatures in seven different back-yard habitats. Field notes offer intriguing facts along with kid-friendly natural science projects. Award-winning science writer leads young readers on an adventure through the miniature wilderness of their own backyards. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**NATURE / WALKING.** Emerson, Thoreau. These two essays, Emerson’s Nature and Thoreau’s Walking, form the bedrock of America’s literary relationship with nature. Some of Thoreau’s writings are incredibly prophetic, such as when he wrote (over 100 years ago) “what would become of us if we walked only in a mall?” If you haven’t read these two essays in several decades, you will be amazed at the inspiration and rejuvenation emanating from these classic writings. #B-6184. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**WALDEN.** Henry David Thoreau, annotated by McKibben. Recent version of this classic title, concentrating on Thoreau as a cultural and spiritual seer. The two major themes found throughout the writings of Thoreau are more relevant today than ever: “How much is enough? and How do I know what I want?” If it has been a while since you read Walden, you will surely find a new fountain of inspiration and “grounding” in this increasingly virtual world. #B-6182. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**FOR THE HEALTH OF THE LAND.** Leopold. Previously unpublished essays and other writings that built the vision of ethical land use and “land health” found throughout Leopold’s writings. Collection of forty short pieces that continue to serve as a source of inspiration, adding to the literary legacy of Aldo Leopold. #B-8054. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**AT HOME ON THIS EARTH, Two Centuries of U.S. Women’s Nature Writing.** Anderson, Edwards, Eds. NEW collections of the writings of over fifty authors, from the early nineteenth century to the present. With its rich diversity in voices, attitudes and styles, this anthology expands the definition of nature writing. Many of these women are well known, but also of great interest are the relatively unknown or forgotten writers who also created literary masterpieces. As this anthology shows, women have been speaking out on important issues for a long time. #B-11092. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**VOICE FROM THE SEA, Reflections on Wildlife and Wilderness.** Owings. Margaret Wentworth Owings, one of the most eloquent and honored voices in the wildlife conservation movement, spent the last years of her life compiling this inspired collection of essays and poetry. Lyrical words evoke images of storm-tossed seas, ancient redwood glades, moonlit nights in Africa, cliff dwellings of the Southwest and the artists, writers and friends who shared her fascination with nature and fierce sense of stewardship. Owings is a modern day Rachel Carson, to whom she dedicated this book. #B-8059. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**KEEPERS OF THE ANIMALS, Native American Stories and Wildlife Activities for Children.** Caduto, Bruchac. Twenty-four stories teach children about Native American culture, wildlife ecology and environmental issues. Interdisciplinary activities involve children in creative arts, theater, reading, writing, science, social studies, mathematics and sensory awareness. All this in a framework of Native American stories and nature activities. #NAT-3013. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**NATIVE AMERICAN GARDENING, Stories, Projects and Recipes for Families.** Caduto, Bruchac. From the authors of the best selling Keepers series, this resource gives you the tools to integrate science, native traditions and culinary talents all in one! Using traditional corn, bean and squash mixtures, students make interesting Native American instruments such as gourd rattles and corn husk dolls, cook native meals, snacks, drinks and desserts. You can easily locate many of the plant foods listed in this book and create fun activities any time of the year. #BP-4801. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**THE EARTH IS MY MOTHER.** Dolittle. NEW. Engaging fictional story of a teenage girl who learns that a canyon she loves is threatened by development. In a remarkable journey, she sets off with a camera to document the canyon with the hope of saving it. Retracing the steps of the ancient Anasazi Indians, she discovers the mysteries of the Blue Mesa. A breathtaking rearrangement of Sarah's pictures (along the lines that made Bev Dolittle's work famous) stirs the nation's conscience, changing the fate of this beautiful land. Ages 9-adult. #EE-10097. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**THE SOUL OF EDUCATION, Helping Students Find Connection, Compassion, and Character at School.** Kessler. In the past several decades humanity itself has been watered down, community turned into consumerism, politics into manipulation and destiny into DNA, making it increasingly difficult to find nourishment for the hungers of the heart. Time to move beyond the "thin soup" of teaching to the tests, and return to the rich broth of program diversity where development of human thoughts and potential take precedence over test scores. A revolutionary book - a must read for teachers, administrators and parents who want their children to grow up as thinkers rather than artifacts of a distant, impersonal scoring machine. #B-9020. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**ECOART, Earth Friendly Art and Craft Experiences for 3 to 9 Year Olds.** Carlson. Learn how to make nontoxic art materials, utilize natural materials, transform trash into useful and artistic treasures, and safely recycle and/or compost dozens of common household and classroom materials. Activities are open-ended, limited only by materials at hand. ABA book award winner. #B-2163. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**GOOD EARTH ART, Environmental Art for Kids.** Kohl, Gainer. Over 200 practical, easy and open-ended art experiences provide a wealth of activities. Ideas include preparing earth paints, leaf bursts, cattail baskets, handmade paper, natural berry dye and wood scrap sculpture, to name a few. Perfect for classrooms, childcare centers, camps, scout groups, and resource centers. #B-1099. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

**DANCING WITH THE EARTH VIDEO.** The Banana Slug String Band. You will be laughing and singing the entire 40 minutes that this rollicking video plays. Video features a selection of your favorite Banana Slug String Band songs and antics. Children will be begging you to play this one again and again! Next best thing to seeing the Slugs live... #V-2126. [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)