

Gifts of Wild

*Children's Nest Egg 2008
Community Writings**

We the Community:
Accepting Gifts Inherited,
Leave Legacies To Those Ahead.
St. Louis Park, 2008

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Some of the Community Contributors recited their poetry at the Children's Nest Egg Dedication Ceremony, September 23, 2008.

Introduction

The following writings were submitted for inclusion in the Children's Nest Egg project. The Children's Nest Egg in St. Louis Park, Minnesota is interactive environmental art, nestled in the Westwood Hills Nature Center, and engages community members through sculptural spatial experience, participation in construction milestone events and process blog, and by honoring their experiences with nature that they wish to leave to the next generation by including their observations and poetry into the artwork. Funding for this project was by the Arts & Culture Grant Program, a collaborative program between the City of St. Louis Park, the Friends of the Arts, and the St. Louis Park Community Foundation. The project is led by Artist/Designer, Jonee Kulman Brigham of Full Spring Studio, LLC, with Construction by Jeffrey Swainhart of Swainhart Construction Services, LLC.

Contributors were asked to submit a short writing with a title that was a thing or name of something they considered a "*gift of wild*" from nature. The writings were engraved in metal plates in the "wing bench" portion of the project installed at Westwood Hills Nature Center in St. Louis Park, Minnesota in 2008 and they were read aloud as part of the Nest Raising Event, August 23, 2008, and Dedication Ceremony September 23, 2008, both at Westwood Hills Nature Center.

Mountains

Mountains are lovely
Mountains are higher than lakes
Clouds cover mountains

Zadine Nanouk Pilcher, Age 7

Look Closely

Pond's reflection of clouds,
Last autumn's decaying reeds,
Daphnia, Cyclops, seed shrimp,
Don't miss them: tiny miracles of spring.

Wendy A. Skinner, Age 46

Chorus

Spring peepers.
Cicada creepers.
Cricket leapers.

Wendy A. Skinner, Age 46

The bug stops here

Daniel James Sullivan, Age 14 months

I love the honey bees.

I like to watch them fly out
and do their work.
They are very busy.

Lucio Bollettieri, Age 4

Trees

Trees are life.
Trees give us oxygen.
Without that,
We would not be alive.

Jessica Wray, Age 10

Animals

They are pretty
They are cool
They are interesting
They are fun

Adara Griffin, Age 9

I like kittens.

Trinity W., Age 7

Plant Seeds

You put them in the ground
so they can grow.
But you have to water them
or the rain can.

Zoe, Age 5

I like the way that the trees blossom.

Jack Girton, Age 5

Picking Flowers

I like to pick them off the ground.

Ava Girton, Age 3

Stars of the North

Necklace of Moonlight
Wonders sending Peace, Hope, Love
Noble light streamers

Ellie Aas, Age 13

10,000 Playgrounds

Ripples blue and green
Always ready to refresh
Wet summer playground

Ann Aas, Age 45

Bat

Erratic flight frightening.
Smitten, I venerate and thank
Your snaring, ferocious tactic.

Cindy Larson O'Neil, Age 46

Moon

Incandescent moon
hanging, hands folded in wait.
Will we follow
nature's compass?

Cindy Larson O'Neil, Age 46

Lucky Tilt

Daffodils' green shoots push through cool soil like clockwork,
Breezes at baking Little League games keep bleacher fans cool,
Scarlet sumac treasures abound for grade school leaf collections,
Snowglobe snow whirls and makes us part of the magic !

Rebecca Bender, Age 50

Perfect Snow

I look out the window ...

it's so fresh and white, but will it work?

My son comes out with rustling snowpants and determination.
He starts rolling... the verdict is in... "Perfect Snowman Snow!"

Rebecca Bender, Age 50

The Amazing Maple Tree

As the amazing maple tree grows,
it will become a monster of syrup.
When winter winds blow, it will stand strong.
This mighty monster will give us shade for many years.

Lincoln Bernhard, Age 9 1/2

The Gray Wolf

The gray wolf howls to the moon at night.
He is hungry, hunting for his prey.
Hiding in the woods, he waits quietly for his meal.
Soon he pounces, eats and goes into the night.

Lincoln Bernhard, Age 9 1/2

Amazing Nature

Exploring parks is wild and fun.
I makes me feel "tickly" inside.
Seeing new animals is amazing.

Holden Christopher, Age 7

New Life

A silent nest waits
The egg moves, and in wonder
A new life begins

Jolene Roehlkepartain, Age 46

Grizzly Giant

There was an ant that climbed a tree
as far as he could see.
He asked the tree what his name was.
"My name is Grizzly Giant of the Sequoia's in Yosemite".

Logan Romero, Age 9

Memory of a Night Alone

The splendor of lying supine on the cellar door
Scanning the stars in the serene summer sky

Joann G. Kulman, Age 76

Norway Spruce

Reaching slowly out --
Norway Spruce teaches posture
To my nervous hand

Jonee Kulman Brigham, Age 43

One Step at a Time.

The world is becoming more aware of our responsibility to
treat our planet with care and consideration. Teaching our children,
the next generation, what a precious gift the planet is
—how integral to our existence—that is the key.

Jeanne: GS Leader Troop 10297

Eagles Fly; A day at the National Eagle Center, Wabasha

We watched the Bald Eagles fly and fish. They are
positive proof that a united effort to rebalance our environment
can make great changes and preserve our planet. Let's hope
there are many more Bald Eagle stories in our future!

Mary: Leader GS Troop 10297

Girl Scout.

I am a girl scout and girl scouts are trying
to go greener by recycling, not using much plastic and
not littering, then again, we've never littered! Good Luck!

Katrine: Age 11

Believe!

I would like everyone to remember that they can
do whatever they want to do even when times get tough.
Always, believe in possibilities!

Kelsey: Age 12

Recycle!

Our country is almost in a recession...
and our country is trying to go green.
Recycle to help the earth and the economy.

Ali: Age 12

Succeeding.

We're TRYING to go greener and
SUCCEEDING. Nature is Cool!

Kennedy: Age 12

Something Significant = Recycling, Go Green!

Jenna: Age 12

Remember.

Remember the good times you have had on the planet
with your friends...and make friends with the planet.

Zoe: Age 11

Earth Friendly.

Right now...we have a huge problem; this problem is
called global warming! We have major problems with
pollution and fuel sources; we HAVE to find alternative
fuel sources that are friendly to the earth.

Mariah: Age 12

Nature...

Conserve, Protect

Recycling, Reusing, Reproducing

Save,

Love...The Earth!

Kandra: Age 12

It's 2008...The year is great!

Recycling is in demand. Going more "green"
than we ever have. Fashion is "green" too.

"Make love, not war" is what we have to do.

Nature, we can't let down. -- Not here, Not now.

Ryan: Age 11

Respect.

Respect nature.

Respect yourself and others.

Respect the earth.

Shoshana: Age 12

***Thank you to all the community contributors for participating
in the project and sharing your vision and appreciation for
"gifts of wild."***

Background

The phrase “Gifts of Wild” comes from the poem that lines the path into Children’s Nest Egg.



Children’s Nest Egg

The bird and flower, man and beast
we all are one, from best to least

We come from Earth and breathe her sky
her water flows through you and I

We take her trees to make our nest
our children’s home in which to rest

We feast upon her fruits and grains
and she provides, despite her pains

She seems immense, invincible
yet seen from space, so very small

To leave our young her gifts of wild
she must be cared for as our child

---By Jonee Kulman Brigham, 2007

More information about the project can be found at
<http://childrensnestegg.blogspot.com>

or contact Jonee Kulman Brigham at Full Spring Studio, LLC
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Full Spring Studio, LLC