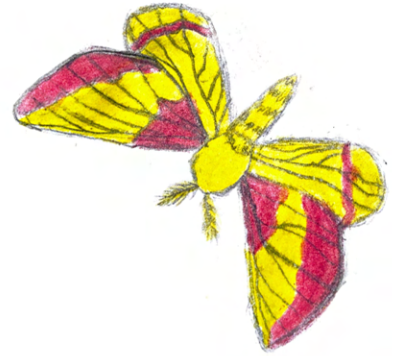

NEWS FROM SINGING CREEK

Rappahannock Nature Camp 2021



THE BUTTERFLY TENT



Drawings by: Declan, Sarah, Finn, and Josie

Dear Campers,

I am going to tell you about Nature Camp, and the Blue Moon Crew, and the Singing Creek.

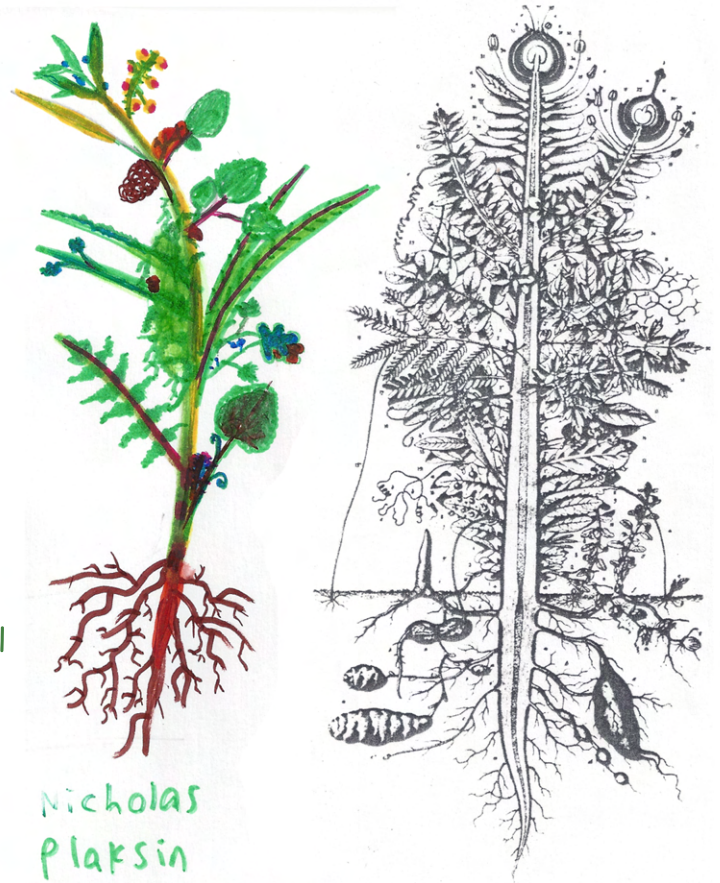
Yes, there is another place called Nature Camp. It is a special place in the mountains near Vesuvius, Virginia. There is only one Nature Camp, just like there is only one Rapp Nature Camp. Many Rapp Nature Campers, when they get older, go on to spend two solid weeks, day and night, at Nature Camp, where they focus on a particular aspect of nature, such as geology or botany or insect larvae. I was a camper there when I was your age, and many of my best friends are Nature Campers. After we were Nature Campers, we all began our life's work at our own homes, which are scattered all across many states. But some of us still keep in touch and travel to our respective homes to help with important projects. We are the Blue Moon Crew.

One of the Blue Moon Crew's projects is our camp—Rapp Nature Camp. Have you ever wondered who built our camp barn? Who built the footbridge over the Hazel River? Who built the Frog Pond? Who built the Frog Pond again after a bear destroyed the first one? The Blue Moon Crew did it all. It was hard work, but we all had learned long ago one of our camp lessons: "Work can be fun." So you can see how the Blue Moon Crew has helped to make our camp a special place. They have been, and always will be, an important part of our camp community.

Every camper, and every person reading this, is also an important part of our camp community, and our camp needs your help now. We all know that "Camp never ends." But you, dear campers, are the ones who will have to help to make it so. You see, by the time that you show up for a session of camp in June or July, I will be 70 years old. After our 2022 Session 4, it will be time for me to retire as Camp Director, and make way for new ideas and new energy. How can you help? Well, perhaps you know someone who might like to take over as Camp Director. Or, if not, maybe that person knows someone who would. So tell everyone you know!

And rest assured, after 2022, I will still be at camp, looking forward to seeing all of our young campers at every summer session. And the Blue Moon Crew will still be working behind the scenes to preserve the magical place called Singing Creek.

Oh yes, now I need to tell you about the Singing Creek. Where is the Singing Creek? Well, the name was inspired by Opal Whiteley, who wrote a diary during the years when she was five and six years old, early in the twentieth century. It was later published under the title of *The Singing Creek where the Willows Grow*, and you can check it out at our library. No one has ever seen our Singing Creek. It flows magically, high in the clouds and far underground. To hear its song, you have to listen carefully. You can hear it in the streaming sunlight, and in the ferns unrolling in the spring, and in the circling of the rainbow. The puckwudgies at camp know the song. They share the song with everyone in our camp community. The song never ends.



Nicholas
Plaksin

"floral Monstracity"

illus. 13. P.J.F. Turpin: The Ideal Plant

Lyf

See you at camp!

MILKWEED BUTTERFLIES

by Reagan Scoville

Imagine walking through a patch of beautiful pink, purple and white flowers with nice light green stems and leaves, watching lots of amazing butterflies and other cool insects flying from flower to flower, collecting nectar and pollinating the flowers as they go. Something catches your eye—a butterfly with black and orange wings. A MONARCH! It flies and you follow it. It lands on a milkweed flower.

Milkweed is a favorite flower of the Monarch, which is a kind of "Milkweed Butterfly." The name "Milkweed" comes from the white sap that is in all parts of the plant. The slightest scratch of the leaves, pods or stem causes the juice to ooze out quickly. It becomes sticky as it starts to dry.

Once the shoots emerge in the spring, certain insects start to feed on the plant. Milkweed plants contain "glycosides" which are poisonous to some animals. Only Monarchs and a few other types of insects are able to eat milkweed leaves.

They actually incorporate the glycosides into their own bodies, and in many cases, this makes them poisonous, or at least less tasty, to potential predators. This is a good defense, but for it to be useful, the predators need to have a warning. How do the predators tell the difference? Well, all Monarchs and other insects that eat this poison have one or more of these colors: red, orange, and black.

One of my favorite things about Rapp Nature Camp is the flower patch, and seeing all the beautiful butterflies. It's such a special place where you can observe the amazing insects. Come to camp next year and I will show you around!

Puckwedgies By: Emily ♥



Umbelliferae of the Land

By Eugene

- Dill
- Parsly
- Celery
- Poison hemlock
- Earth chesnut
- Giant hogweed
- Parsnip
- Caraway



- Sugar Maple** →
 - turn red and yellow in the fall
 - leaves are 3-5 inches in diameter
- Red Maple** →
 - Reaches 75 to 80 feet
 - Grows quickly
 - Turns scarlet in fall
- Silver Maple** →
 - Bark is smooth and silver grey
 - Grows quickly
 - Leaves don't get very colored in fall.

What they have in common: have 3 big lobes

Mariel Scoville

THE GHOST OWL

By Penelope Thomas



One night, Mr. Lyt was in his house and everything was peaceful. Suddenly, strange whistling sounds came from outside. Mr. Lyt looked out the window, and there it was—a Great Horned Owl. (We call this one the Ghost Owl because it makes scary noises and is nearly impossible to see.) The large creature cocked her head and, along with her mate, flew away into the night. Mr. Lyt told the campers about the mysterious owl, and the legend spread. And from then on, it was always fun to try to get a glimpse of it.

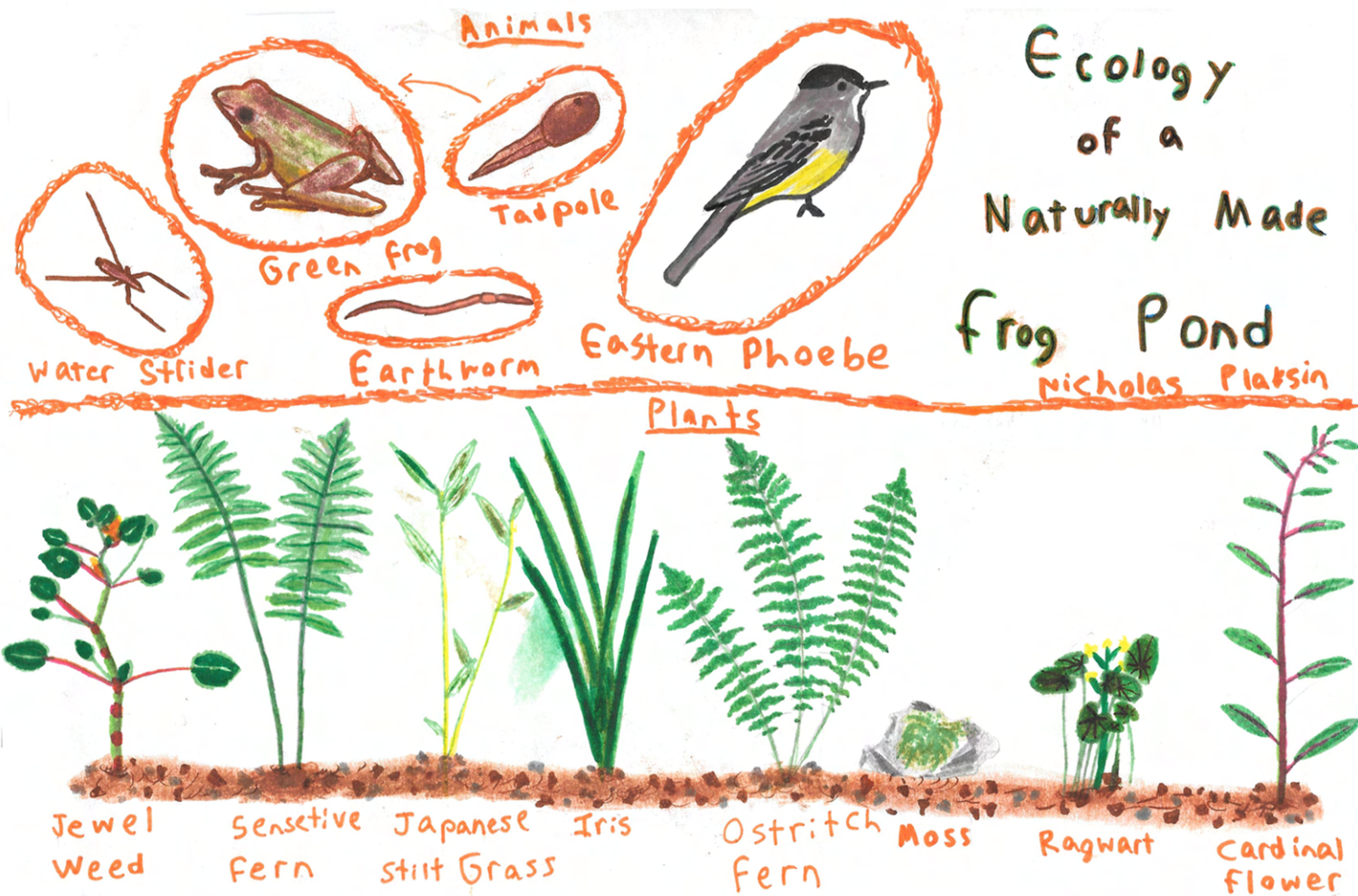
The Ghost Owl has horny ears, a tawny orange face, and long tailfeathers. She eats small animals like mice and birds, and some larger ones like skunks and rabbits. An owl pellet is formed when she regurgitates the bones and other debris from her last meal. The substance hardens, and becomes an owl pellet. It is fun to dissect an owl pellet; you can find all sorts of parts, and try to figure out what she has been eating.

One day, all the campers were walking on a trail, and a large feather was spotted that might have belonged to the Ghost Owl! It was a long feather and it was grey on the top with a white-striped design, and had fringes on the edges.



Feather, feather,
soft as you are,
you come from an owl,
from near and far.

where eagles fly
And grey wolves howl,
the feather belongs
to the Great Horned Owl.



ophelia Birds, Bees and Blooms



Blooms

poem
if you listen
the birds songs
will gladden

Frogs



1. Frogs are cold blooded
2. Frogs are cold blooded
3. Frogs blink at different times

nature

Wine berry

the white horse is a legend

Beetles



1. Beetles Can swim they are also attracted to light

The owl As night covers earth The creature is awake and flies until the sun rises again

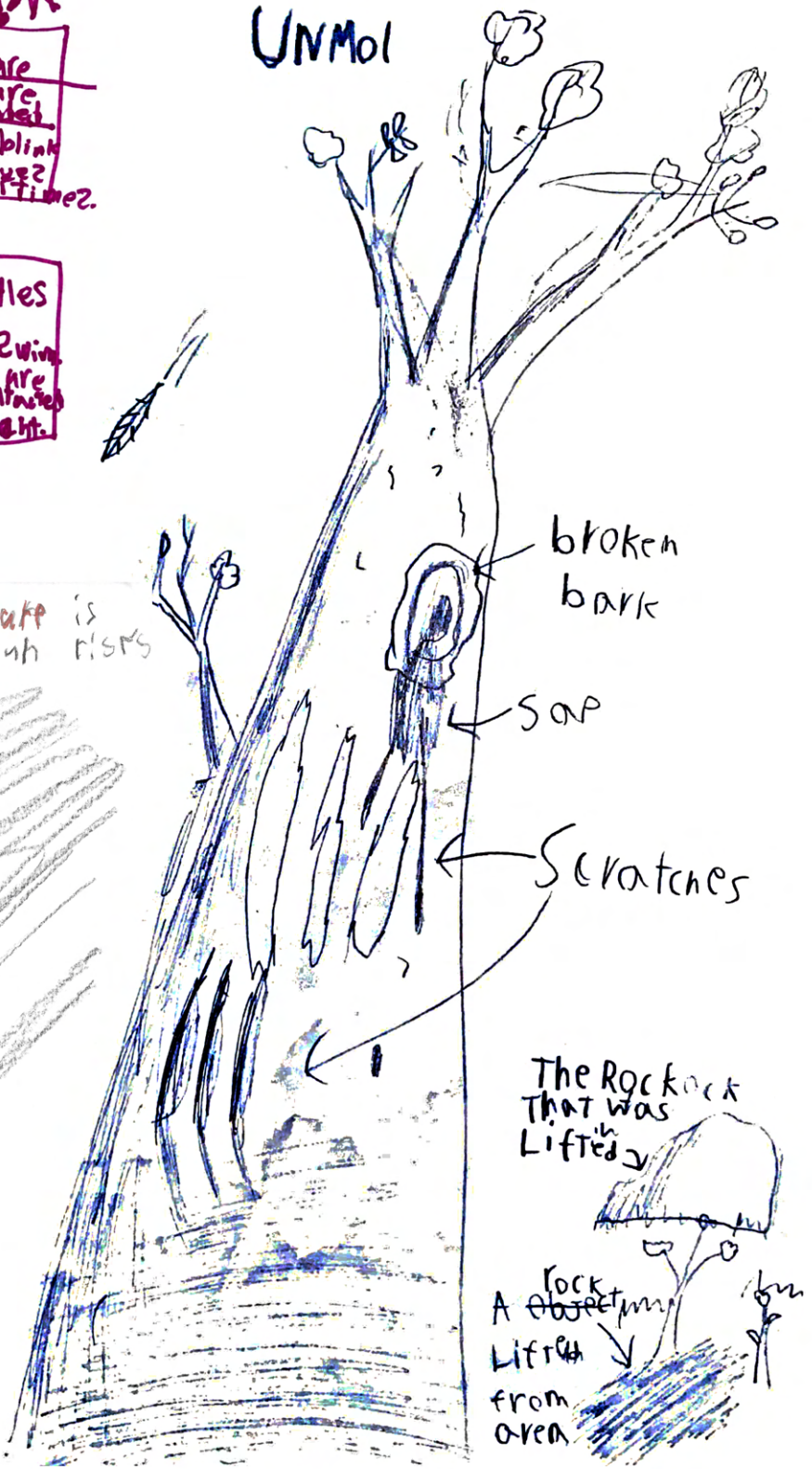


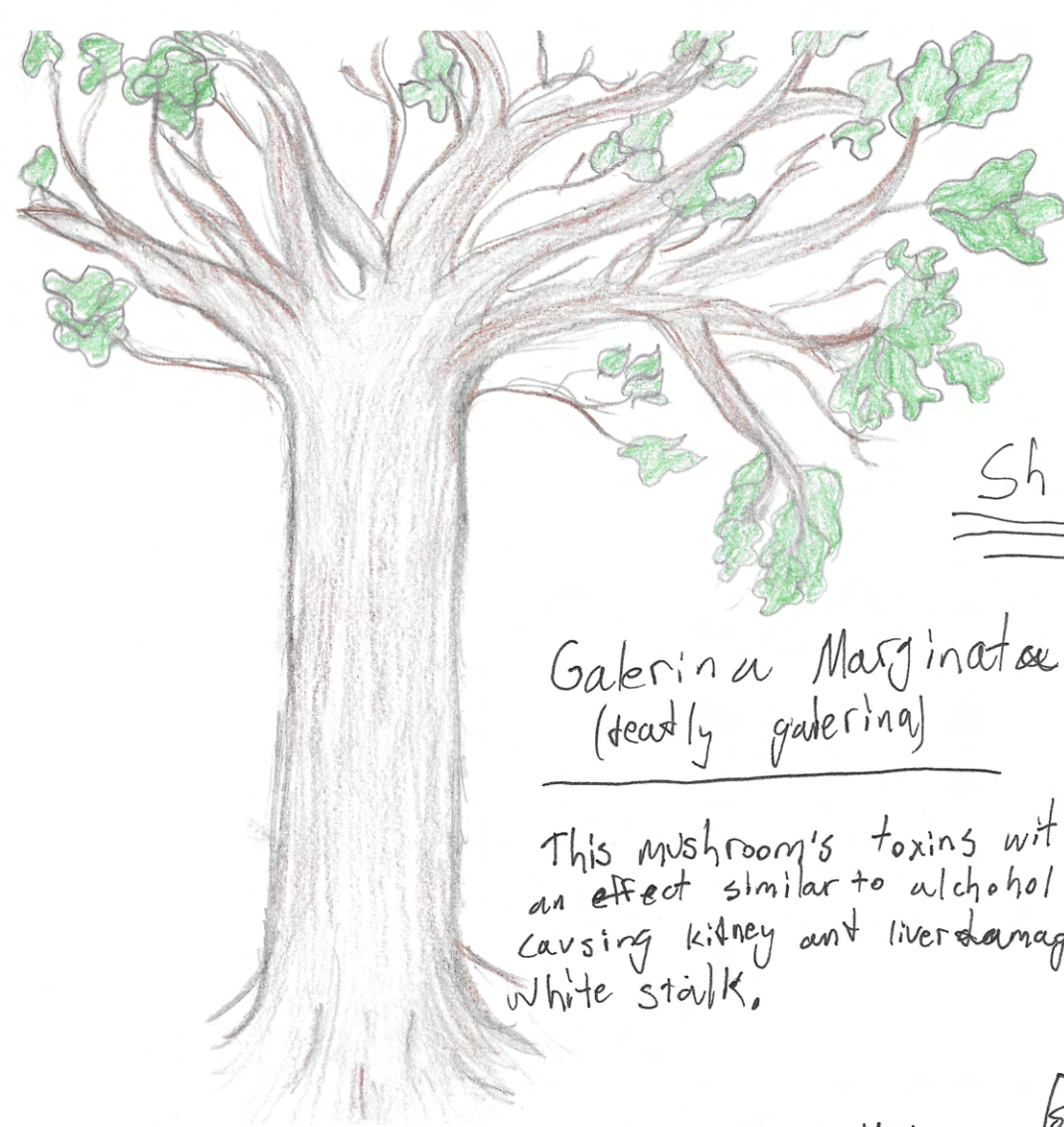
virginia still

THE RIVER by Will Wofford

The river rushes never stopping
The river flows always growing
It thunders through gorges
Rocks tumble below the surface
And it runs away to the sea

UNMOL





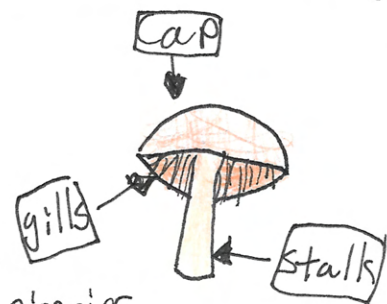
Oak

Emily Scoville

Shrooms! (that will kill you) Declan Caten

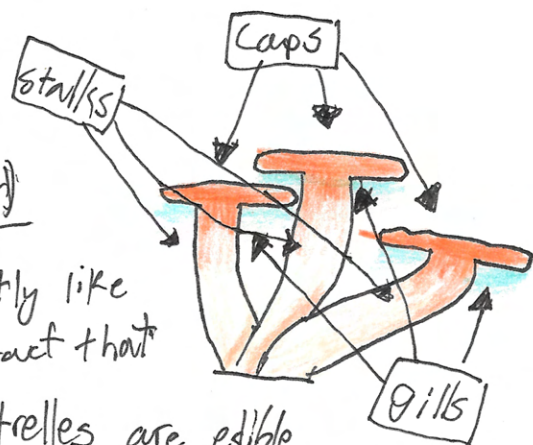
Galerina Marginatae
(deadly galerina)

This mushroom's toxins with an effect similar to alcohol poisoning, causing kidney and liver damage. It is orange, with an off-white stalk.

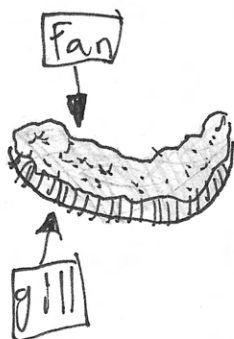


Omphalotus illudens
(Jack-O-lantern mushroom)

These mushrooms look exactly like chanterelles, except for the fact that the gills glow! While chanterelles are edible, Jack o lantern mushrooms are highly poisonous.

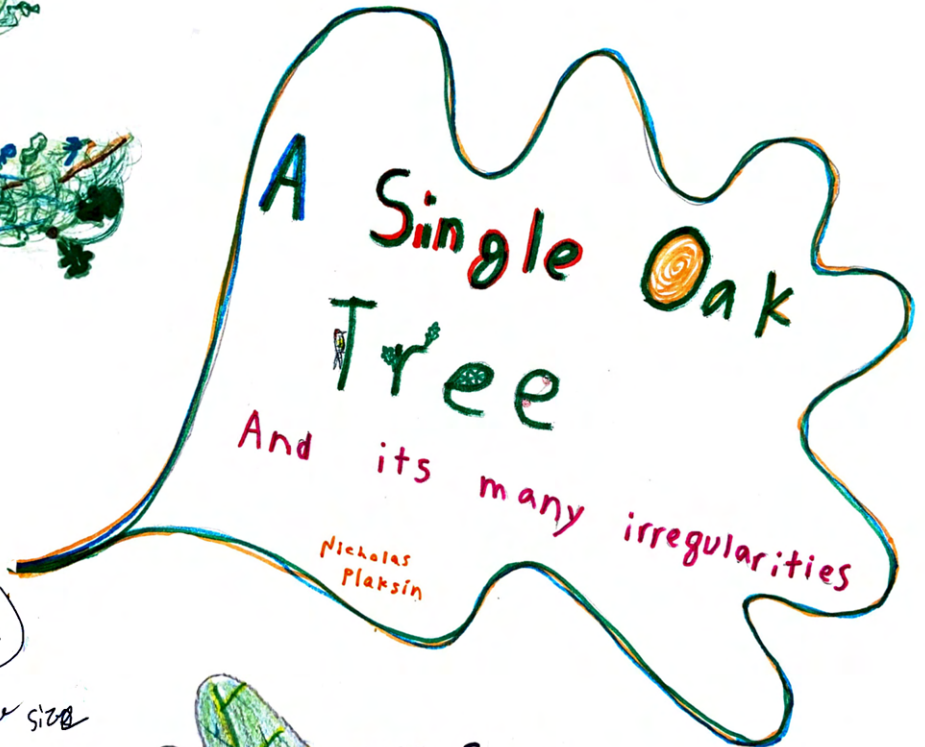


Schizophyllum Commune
(common split-gill)



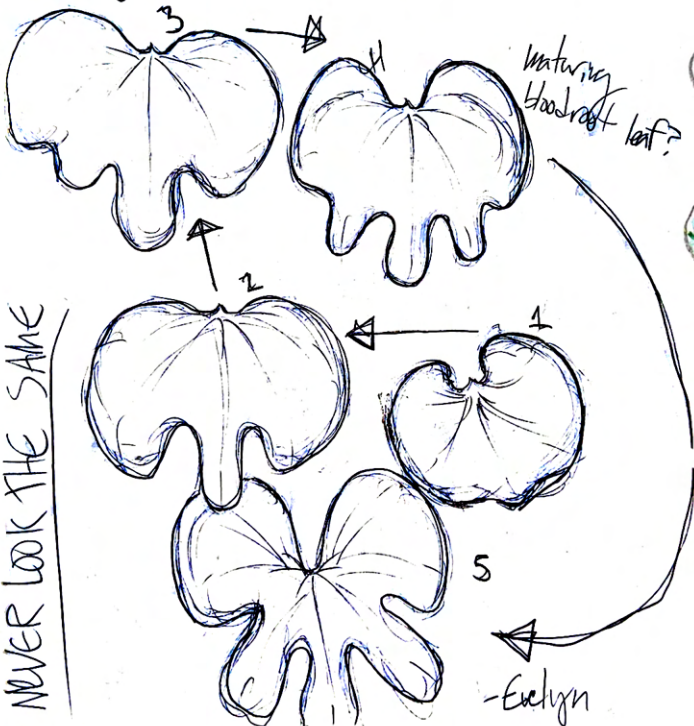
This mushroom is used as an antitumor medicine but only in small doses, as it can kill you. Thankfully, this mushroom is very easy to recognize due to its unusual fuzziness.



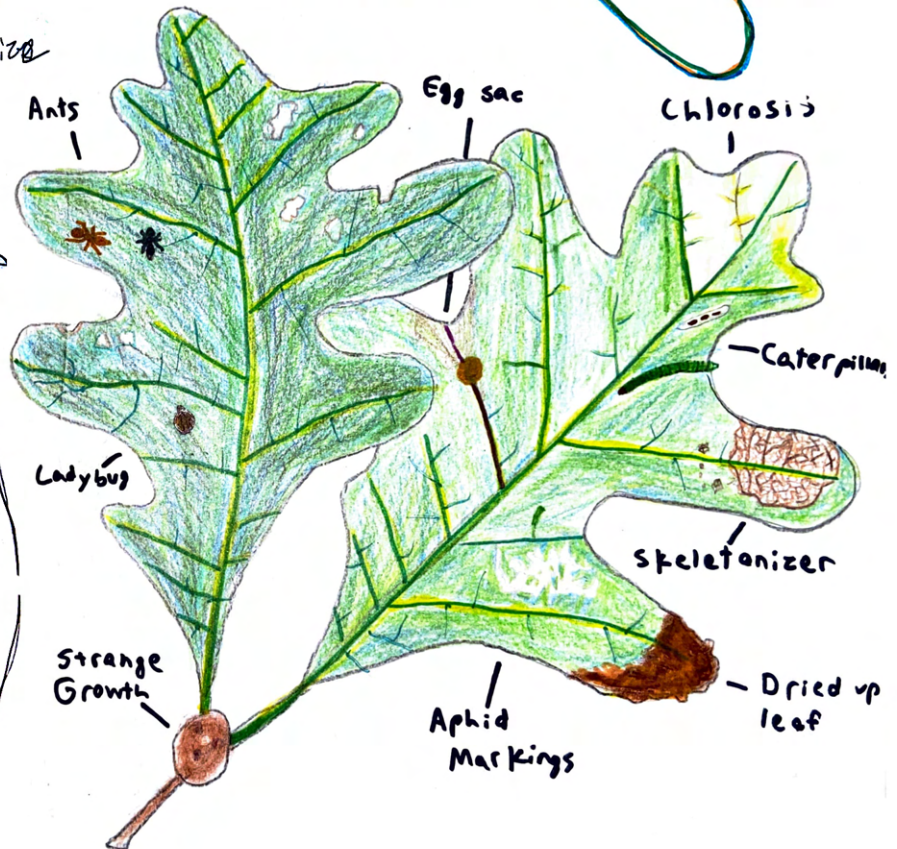


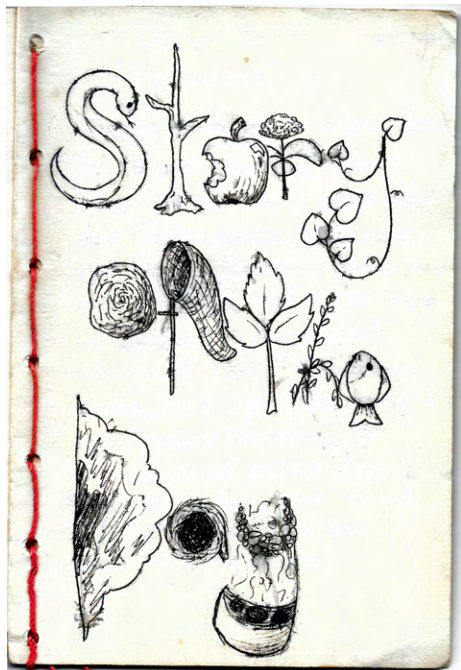
Bloodroot

lightest green color, can grow to about the size of your palm.



NEVER LOOK THE SAME





SESSION 1

June 21-25

Day 1 "Pathways"

Trails through the past lead us to a path for the future, and help us to discover a reimagined vision of Our Place. On our walk to somewhere, we have found our Quiet Spot, baby birds, and a new pavilion.

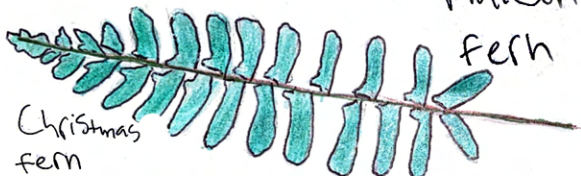
Day 2 "Rose, bud, thorn"

River Time revealed a wealth of invertebrates. Bubble-heads "found old songs on the back of the brain." For some, the rainy day was a rose, but for others, a thorn. Why?

Day 3

"Today was just perfect"

What makes a perfect day? A bright blue sky? Quiet Time? River Time? Bubbleheads singing a new verse on the footbridge? Perhaps...or maybe... when you look for something, you can find it.



Christmas fern

Day 4

"Today felt like the magic of camp"

River hike, the Singing Creek, ladybug friends, projects, water snakes... The magic of camp is starting to flare, just before the last day when it starts to die down.

Day 5 "Camp never ends"

Discovering new things and remembering old things felt slow at first. With so much to do and experience, our one week flew by. Quiet reflection led us to realize that the hardest part is saying goodbye.

New York Fern



SESSION 2

June 28 - July 2

Day 1 "Story of a day"

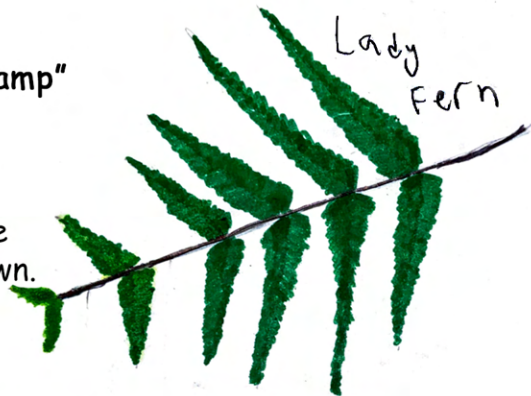
Animals, plants, old friends, and new campers help to tell the story of a day at camp. As we write our story together, the bubbling of the Hazel River adds its voice to our memories of animal tracks, a copperhead, and birds communicating.

Day 2 "Wake up!"

Campers singing, campers laughing, dragonflies molting, spiders constructing webs... When things are quiet and we wake up to Nature's calling, we find that gifts are all around us.

Day 3 "Community"

The place that we call camp has many inhabitants:



Lady Fern

crayfish in the Hazel River, moths and their butterfly cousins, the Red Dog, a pet bumblebee... Each of us is finding our own place in our community.

Day 4 "A walk in the rain"

During our wineberry walk, even in the pouring rain, if we listened, we could hear the quiet between the sounds. And with imagination we could see a rainbow.

Day 5

"Our last day of camp"

Projects, sign-making, presentations, and a Quiet Time of thinking back on our special week and looking forward to later summer sessions.

Ostrich Fern



Fern drawings by Isaac Plaksin

Maiden hair



SESSION 3: July 5-9

Day 1 "Treasure everywhere"

We stumbled upon little treasures throughout our first day. At camp, our treasures may or may not be locked in a treasure chest!

Day 2 "Bear Bones and Bare Bones"

Using binoculars, we staked out the home of the Ghost Owl. We found a complete skeleton of a black bear. We painted with rocks on the edge of the Hazel River. Nothing more than the bare bones of Nature were needed to inspire us.

Day 3 "Open to the new"

Thunder and billowing clouds led us to create our Story of the Day in a new place, with a new sacred object. Unexpected changes may make us uncomfortable at first, but it also can open the door for new experiences together.

Day 4 "Sounds of summer"

Campers shared their projects as we listened in anticipation of impending rain. Then we listened to the sound of an ancient homemade instrument that many of us had never seen or heard before. Then the sounds of campers splashing and laughing in the river must have echoed through the mountains and trees for miles. The afternoon rain finally came as we created our Story of the Day with the sound of raindrops falling on the barn roof.

Day 5 "Our last day"

We caught some dragonflies, and laughed as we swung our nets and missed. We caught some fish, and marveled as we emptied the buckets into the aquarium we found that they had magically disappeared. We were excited to share our projects with visitors, but were sad that our week has come to an end.

SESSION 4: July 12-16

Day 1 "Creating community"

Returning campers took first-timers under their wing on their first day at camp. We were all looking forward to River Time, but summer storms kept us out of the river. So we found our Quiet Spots, played a Rock Game, sang camp songs, searched for project topics, and created a story together during our first day of the last session of camp.

Day 2 "Learning to see the magic of camp"

A long River Time today! We made up for yesterday's lost time by splashing, catching minnows, and stalking crayfish. Now we are looking forward to bringing our rosebuds into full bloom, and maybe even seeing some of our thorns magically transforming into roses.

Day 3 "It's always fun to learn sometimes"

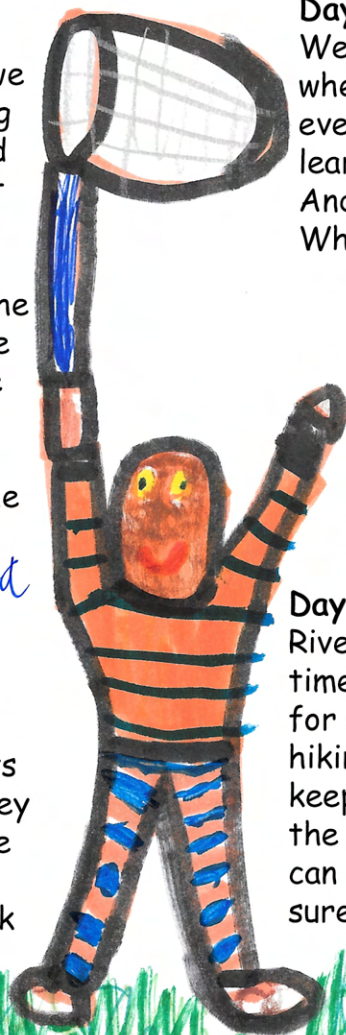
We learned about plants and invertebrates and where they live, and we learned about everything that calls a rotting log home, and we learned a new song called "Everyone's River." And high up in a tulip tree, we spotted the White Horse!

Day 4 "Everyone's River Hike"

We started at the Lagoon and walked in the rocky river all the way up to the deep swimming hole. We saw watersnakes, crayfish, frogs, and lots of other creatures that are the subjects of our project work. Even the songs we practiced connect us to the river!

Day 5 "Camp Never Ends"

River Hikes, nature-study projects, spending time at our own Quiet Spots, collecting rocks for a Rock Game, composing new song verses, hiking on a new trail, camping out overnight, keeping a journal of our own personal Stories of the Day... these are some of the things that we can all do with friends and at home to make sure that camp never ends!



Growing Patterns of plants



Toothed



Entire



Stems



quadrate stem



mint



Hostas
Violets

Common with small
basal plants



Divided



HABITATS

by Jonas Volmrich

Habitats are the types of homes where each kind of animal lives. Squirrels and some kinds of birds could live in the same kind of habitat. They might both like to live in trees or part of a forest. I saw a squirrel climb a tree during Snack Time and birds in the woods during Quiet Time. Later I saw a cardinal eating blueberries in the garden, and a water snake in the river. A rabbit ran into the woods near the house.



whispering in the woods
a tiny young bird,
on the edge of the nest
unsure that she could,
a moment of thinking
she finally decides,
with a hop and a flutter
away she glides

by Nina Anderson

INVERTEBRATES IN THE HAZEL RIVER

by Eliza Cobb, Matthew Grayson
and Nathan Grayson

Invertebrates are animals that do not have a backbone. Insects, crayfish, worms and mussels are examples of invertebrates. Many invertebrates are very small and can only be seen through microscopes. Some of the invertebrates we found in the river were: stonefly larvae, crane fly larvae, water pennies, and crayfish. We also found hellgrammites, which are dobsonfly larvae. They have pincers and are scary looking.



Lobed at bottom



Opposite Alternate Whorled



basal





Alice



NOT SO
WILD
WILDFLOWERS

Sylvana's Project

Jewelweed

Red Cedar

vine

Stinging Nettle

Wa
Dat
N
Choo

-bug

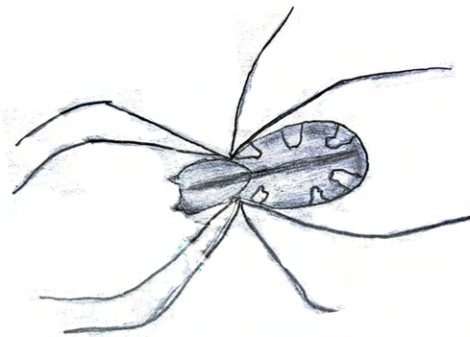
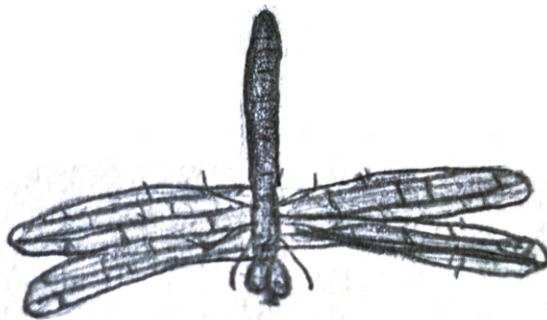
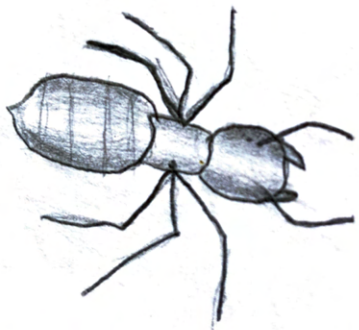
-bee

-Wine
Berry

-rain

-leaf

-Thea

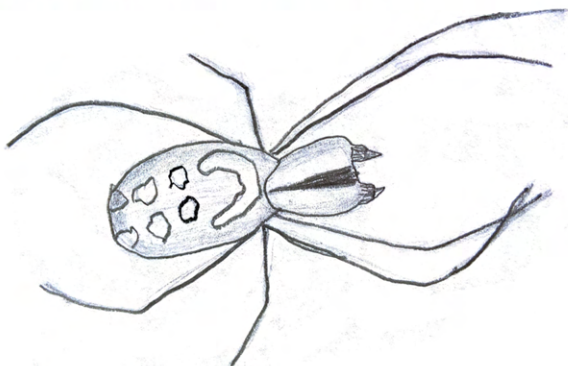


PAINTING WITH NATURE

by Evelyn Babcock

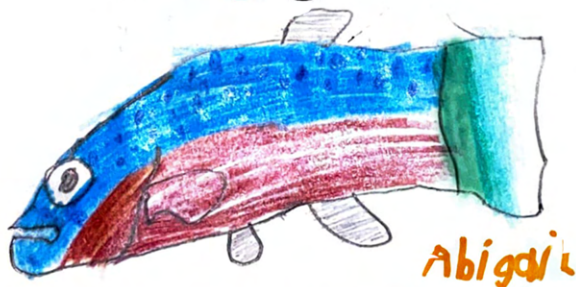
It started with just squishing a berry against a piece of paper when Greg gave me the idea to make an actual painting out of the juice. I ended up making 3, technically 4. The plants I used were blackberries, wineberries, milkweed, and some wildflowers. Experimenting with the blackberry juice and the wineberry juice was what I had the most fun with. Blackberries start out as a deep red, but it fades to a deep purpley blue. The wineberries started as a pink, but surprisingly turned into a periwinkle color. Here's a tip: Experiment! Just don't eat the berry if you don't know what it is.

Evelyn B.



Drawings by Isaac Plaksin

Rosyside Dace



DACES IN THE HAZEL RIVER

by Will Wofford, Corwen Blair and Harley Kerr

Mountain Redbelly Dace:

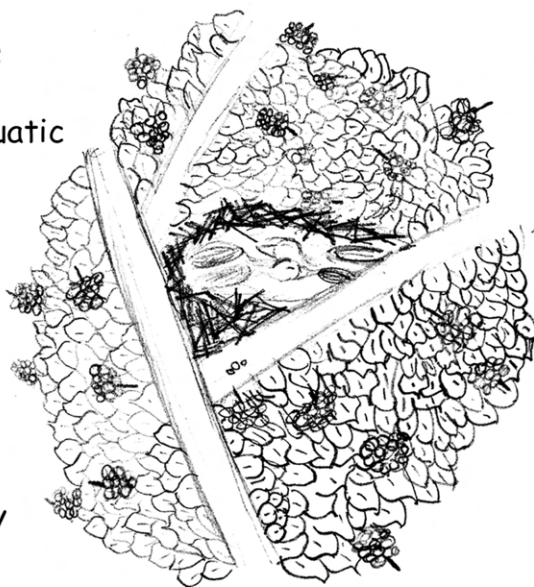
- Introduced to this watershed in 1960
- Rare to abundant in different locations
- Up to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
- Yellow body with black dots and bright red belly
- Bright yellow fins
- They like to feed on invertebrates near the top of the water
- Sometimes will jump out of the water to catch bugs
- Their presence indicates good water quality
- Sometimes caught by fly fishermen!

Rosyside Dace:

- Native to our watershed
- Very common in medium streams
- 2 to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches
- They feed on terrestrial and aquatic insects
- Bumps on head for fighting
- Red stripe along body length

Blacknose Dace:

- Native to our watershed
- Very common in cold to warm mountain streams
- 2 - 4 inches
- Black stripe from eye along body length



Black Bear Facts

Sagun Adhikari

Description

- Black bears are omnivores, so their diet usually consists small mammals and plants such as fish and wild berries. (like wine berries)

- Black bears have short tails, and can vary upon different colors like black, brown, and sometimes red, but the most common color is black.

- They can also grow up to 5 to 7ft, but the bear we found looks to be 4ft.

Habitat

- Black bears mainly feed on vegetation, so their habitats are usually in forests, or mountainous areas. Their dens tend to be in hollow trees, or beneath a tree.

Fun Facts

- Black bears are impressive Climbers and the also claw trees to either find food or mark their territory.

- They are fast runners as well



CARDINAL NEST IN BLACKBERRY BUSH

by Noelle Skandalis and Sascha Mizejewski

We found a cardinal nest in the blackberry patch. It is made of grass and twigs. There are two tiny baby cardinals that hatched about a week ago. They are dark green on their wings, tail and head. They are attracted to fruit such as blackberries. The mother cardinal has grey wings and head, with some red and a crest on her head. The mom will occasionally fly in to check on the nest and bring food.

Everyone's River

September 2020

1.

Em Em/D D/G D/GG

Em Em Always singing
D D Sing without verse

Em Em Always speaking
D B Speak without words

G D For-ever
G G flowing — For-

G D ever flowing
G G Never going

G D Never going a-
B B way —

G D Never going a-
Em Em way —

G D { Never going a-
Em Em way — }
G D GG

2.

Em Em All the colors
D D Silver blue white

Em Em Colors of trees
D B Rocks and the sky

G D All colors
G G Shining — a

G D Faraway journey a
G G Yearning to carry

G D Carry my story
B B Far away

G D Far to the
Em Em Sea —

G D { Far to the
Em Em Sea — }

G D GG

3.

Em Em Everyone's river to
D D No one belong I

Em Em Follow my path the
D B Earth is my home

G D Follow my
G G Path — with

G D Creatures that dwell a
G G Yearning to tell

G D Tell my story
B B Far away

G D Far to the
Em Em Sea —

G D { Far to the
Em Em Sea — } G D G

♩ = 72 Everyone's River



Session 1 Session 2 Session 3 Session 4



RAPPAHANNOCK NATURE CAMP 2022

at Singing Creek

Our 2022 theme for study: "TREASURES."

SUMMER DAY CAMPS. Open to campers ages 8-16. Campers may sign up for any or all sessions. Recent campers will receive enrollment information as soon as we can confirm our plans. Others can visit rappnaturecamp.org, email rappnaturecamp@gmail.com, or call 540-987-9530. Meanwhile, MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Session 1: June 20-24

Session 2: June 27 - July 1

Session 3: July 4-8

Session 4: July 11-15

We will also have one special night of camping in late July, to be announced. Thanks to the PATH Foundation for funding this free event.

PERENNIAL CAMPERS. Rapp Nature Camp is happy once again to announce a series of nature education outings for adults—our "Perennial Campers!" Our first event will be in early March—we will take a look at breeding activity of amphibians and install a new vernal pond, to be followed by other springtime excursions to interesting habitats in Rappahannock and surrounding counties. Stay tuned for our schedule of events, to be announced in the Rappahannock News and at rappnaturecamp.org.

OUR MISSION: "To allow individuals, especially children, to discover for themselves the wonder and beauty of the natural world, and to understand what it means to be a part of a community of living things."



By: Eucia

Our Nature Camp Journey

In the beginning, numbers were drawn

Old friends meet new friends

Lyt sang a song

A treasure chest was found

Above it, new verses and songs combined
into harmony

Blue underwear made us laugh

River time at last!

Quiet time, critters, lunch time next

Hope to see each other next year!

Now the day ends.

Marriel and Savannah

Rapp Nature camp was a great experience, and we did lots of fun and exiting things. We had an awesome "quiet spot" that we got to hang out at, and we also had a singing group called Bubbleheads. We presented our Bubblehead's songs and our projects on friday at one o'clock to the parents. I absolutely loved Rapp Nature camp, I ~~also~~ can't wait to be back, and I recommend this camp to anyone who is interested in

N O T boring A wesome T rees! U nbeardab ly cool R adical! E xperience is the best

Penelope Thomas