

December 2025

WILD KIDS

SEASONAL NATURE EDUCATION FOR KIDS & THEIR GROWN UPS



2026 Wild
Nature &
Astronomy
Events

Evergreen
ID Gift Tags

Giant Ice Suncatchers

2025 Nature Wrap Up

With
seasonal poems,
activities,
nature journal
pages and more!

From the editor

BY ALICIA BAYER

Happy December!

What are you hoping to do in nature this month?

We finally have lots of snow here in Minnesota, so we're hoping to do lots of sledding, plus building snowmen and snow forts. Pretty soon our lakes will be frozen enough to ice skate on, which is always fun. This time of year we like to make ice ornaments and suncatchers, too, freezing colored water in different shaped molds with yarn for hanging them. We have instructions on how to make the suncatchers in this month's issue if you'd like to make some too.

As you know, we've have a general theme for each year of Wild Kids Magazine for the plants we highlight each month, like flowers, trees, herbs, invasive plants and mushrooms (which aren't actually plants at all!).

I did a lot of thinking about what type of plants we should have for a 2026 theme and I've decided it will be the most dangerous ones! The reasons are firstly, there are some really cool dangerous plants, and secondly because it's just as important to know what plants to avoid completely as to know which ones are helpful.

There really aren't that many really dangerous plants, but a lot of the most dangerous ones can be found in people's gardens. There's a really pretty flower I saw in a church garden recently called monkshood that is so poisonous that it's even dangerous to touch, like to pick the flower! So this year we're going to learn more about the plants we should just stay away from. Of course, we will always learn about all the wonderful plants to forage, grow and appreciate though! There are far more of those and they are so great to get to know.

Is there anything special you'd like to see us teach about in Wild Kids over the next year? If so, please write and let me know!

Wherever you live and whatever your weather, I hope you have a wild and wonderful month!

Alicia



Why is Wild Kids free?

Kids (and their grown ups) need nature., and nature needs us! Our family believes in the importance of sharing & helping each other, and of passing on skills to help our world and each other. As long as we are able, we plan to produce Wild Kids to help do this for families who find it useful.

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Contact: alicia.bayer@gmail.com

Find past issues and more at www.magicalchildhood.com/wildkids.

Go Wild in December

10 Ways to Learn and Play with Nature this Month

Try to root some herbs or scallions from the grocery store in water on a windowsill

If you have snow, bring a tub inside and make snowballs to paint with watercolor paints, then put them back out as decorations

Make a list of all the fun things you did in nature over the past year & all the plants you grew or foraged (we have sheets for it in this issue)

Learn a new nature fact each day to tell your family at dinner time or bedtime

Write a nature poem and send it in to Wild Kids!

Stay up late to watch the Geminid meteor shower (peaking overnight on the 13th - 14th)

Take a picture of the sunset each day this month and make a collage of them

Celebrate the winter solstice on the 21st, when the days start getting longer again (or the summer solstice in the Southern Hemisphere)

Make a wild resolution for what you'd like to do in nature in 2026

Look for the Ursids meteor shower on the night of the 21st and 22nd

Giant Ice Suncatchers

Here's a fun winter craft our family has done for many years! All you have to do is freeze colored water in an ice cube tray and then fill a round cake pan half full of water. Insert a paper cup that's filled with water in the pan to make a hanging hole (note – don't do it as high up as this picture of our very first one, because if the hole is very close to the edge it melts and falls quickly when the weather warms up!).

Freeze the pan of water for an hour and then put in the colored ice cubes and finish freezing (they'll melt too much if the water is not already really cold when you add them).

When it's fully frozen, unmold it and pop out the cup (run the pan under warm water just a tiny bit if you have trouble popping the suncatcher out). Tie some ribbon in the hole and hang it outside where the sun will hit it.

You can do this even if it's not cold where you live. It will melt outside if it's above freezing, but it's fun to guess how long it will take to melt and you just get a little puddle of colored water afterwards.



Some people like to freeze orange slices, pine sprigs, berries and other natural materials instead. That's a fun way to do it too!



2025 Wild Memories

Nature crafts & activities I did

Nature topics I learned about





2025 Wild Memories

Birds & Animals I saw

Plants I grew or foraged





2025 Wild Memories

Favorite things I did in nature

Wild places I went





2026 WILD DAYS & NIGHTS

JANUARY

JANUARY 3 FULL MOON, SUPERMOON
JANUARY 3, 4 QUADRANTIDS METEOR SHOWER
JANUARY 5 NATIONAL BIRD DAY
JANUARY 10 JUPITER AT OPPOSITION (BRIGHTEST OF ALL YEAR)
JANUARY 13 FULL MOON



FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 1 FULL MOON
FEBRUARY 2 WORLD WETLANDS DAY
FEBRUARY 19 MERCURY AT GREATEST EASTERN ELONGATION (EASIEST TO VIEW)

MARCH

MARCH 3 FULL MOON, TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE, WORLD WILDLIFE DAY
MARCH 20 MARCH EQUINOX (EQUAL AMOUNTS OF DAY & NIGHT, 1ST DAY OF SPRING)
MARCH 22 WORLD WATER DAY

APRIL

APRIL 2 FULL MOON
APRIL 8 ZOO LOVERS DAY
APRIL 22 EARTH DAY
APRIL 22, 23 LYRIDS METEOR SHOWER
APRIL 26 ARBOR DAY



MAY

MAY 1 FULL MOON
MAY 6, 7 ETA AQUARIDS METEOR SHOWER
MAY 20 WORLD BEE DAY
MAY 31 FULL MOON, BLUE MOON

JUNE

JUNE 3 WORLD BICYCLE DAY
JUNE 21 JUNE SOLSTICE, FIRST DAY OF SUMMER, LONGEST DAY
JUNE 29 FULL MOON



JULY

JULY 28 WORLD NATURE CONSERVATION DAY
JULY 28, 29 DELTA AQUARIDS METEOR SHOWER
JULY 29 FULL MOON



AUGUST

AUGUST 12 PARTIAL SOLAR ECLIPSE (IN SOME AREAS)
AUGUST 12, 13 PERSEIDS METEOR SHOWER
AUGUST 13 INTERNATIONAL WOLF DAY
AUGUST 15 VENUS AT GREATEST EASTERN ELONGATION (EASIEST TO VIEW)
AUGUST 28 FULL MOON, PARTIAL LUNAR ECLIPSE

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 1 WORLD BEACH DAY
SEPTEMBER 23 SEPTEMBER EQUINOX (EQUAL LENGTH OF DAY & NIGHT), 1ST DAY OF FALL
SEPTEMBER 26 FULL MOON
SEPTEMBER 25 NEPTUNE AT OPPOSITION (EASIEST TO VIEW)

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 4 SATURN AT OPPOSITION (EASIEST TO VIEW)
OCTOBER 7 DRACONIDS METEOR SHOWER
OCTOBER 21, 22 ORIONIDS METEOR SHOWER
OCTOBER 26 FULL MOON



NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 4, 5 TAURIDS METEOR SHOWER
NOVEMBER 17, 18 LEONIDS METEOR SHOWER
NOVEMBER 24 FULL MOON, SUPERMOON
NOVEMBER 25 URANUS AT OPPOSITION (EASIEST TO VIEW)

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 4 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION DAY
DECEMBER 13, 14 GEMINIDS METEOR SHOWER
DECEMBER 21 DECEMBER SOLSTICE (SHORTEST DAY), FIRST DAY OF WINTER
DECEMBER 23 FULL MOON, SUPERMOON

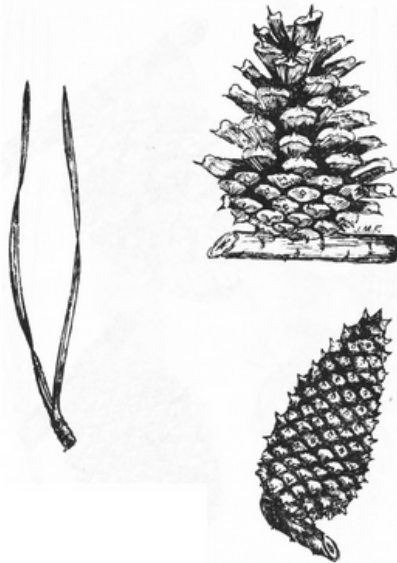
Evergreen ID Gift Tags

Color these gift tags with watercolor paint or colored pencils to personalize your gifts.
There are two of each, so you can also use them for matching games.



EASTERN HEMLOCK
(*Tsuga canadensis*)

TO:
FROM:



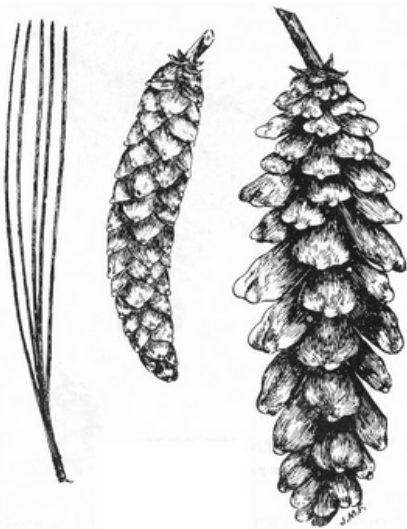
VIRGINIA PINE
(*Pinus virginiana*)

TO:
FROM:



NORWAY SPRUCE
(*Picea abies*)

TO:
FROM:



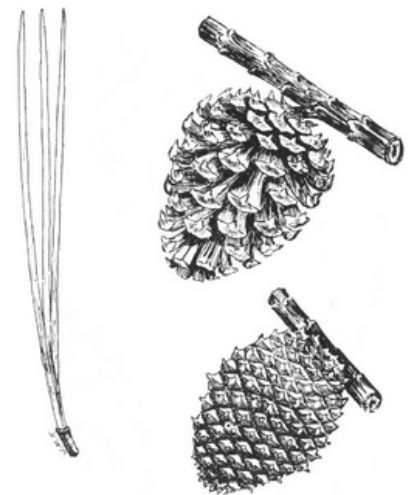
EASTERN WHITE PINE
(*Pinus strobus*)

TO:
FROM:



RED SPRUCE
(*Picea rubens*)

TO:
FROM:



PITCH PINE
(*Pinus rigida*)

TO:
FROM:

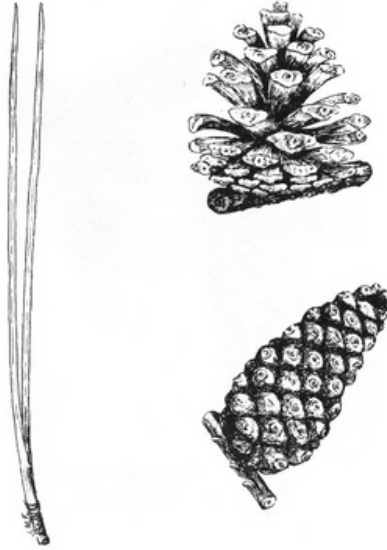
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EASTERN REDCEDAR
(*Juniperus virginiana*)

TO:
FROM:



RED PINE
(*Pinus resinosa*)

TO:
FROM:



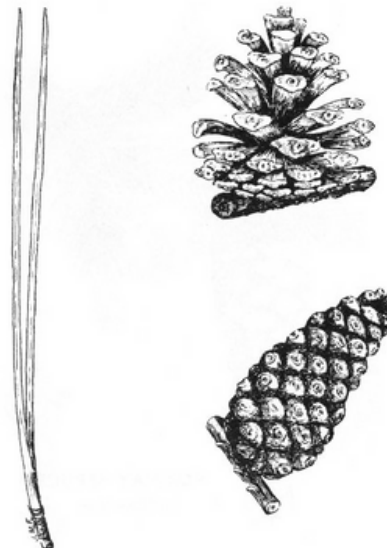
EASTERN LARCH
(*Larix laricina*)

TO:
FROM:



EASTERN REDCEDAR
(*Juniperus virginiana*)

TO:
FROM:



RED PINE
(*Pinus resinosa*)

TO:
FROM:



EASTERN LARCH
(*Larix laricina*)

TO:
FROM:

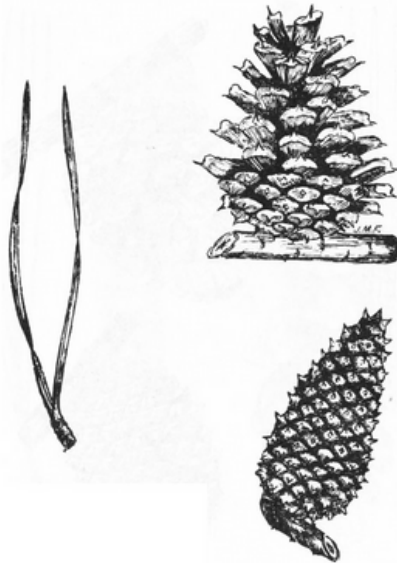
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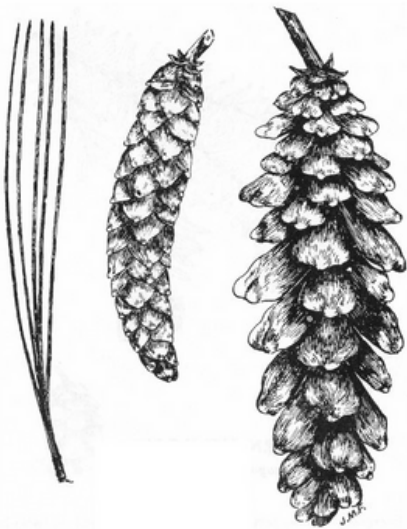
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TO:
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TO:
FROM:



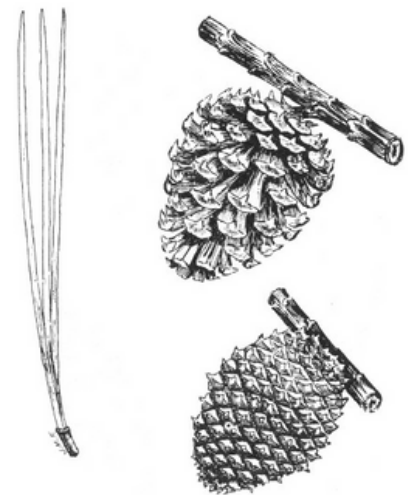
EASTERN WHITE PINE
(*Pinus strobus*)

TO:
FROM:



RED SPRUCE
(*Picea rubens*)

TO:
FROM:



PITCH PINE
(*Pinus rigida*)

TO:
FROM:

Poems for December

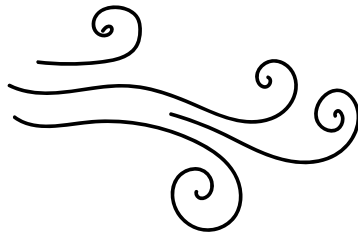


The Snow-Blossoms
By Clark Ashton Smith

But yestereve the winter trees
Reared leafless, blackly bare,
Their twigs and branches poignant-marked
Upon the sunset-flare.

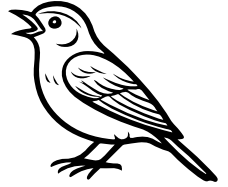
White-petaled, opens now the dawn,
And in its pallid glow,
Revealed, each leaf-lorn, barren tree
Stands white with flowers of snow.

Spellbound
By Emily Brontë



The night is darkening round me,
The wild winds coldly blow;
But a tyrant spell has bound me
And I cannot, cannot go.
The giant trees are bending
Their bare boughs weighed with snow.
And the storm is fast descending,
And yet I cannot go.
Clouds beyond clouds above me,
Wastes beyond wastes below;
But nothing drear can move me;
I will not, cannot go.

The Darkling Thrush
By Thomas Hardy



I leant upon a coppice gate
When Frost was spectre-gray,
And Winter's dregs made desolate
The weakening eye of day.
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
Like strings of broken lyres,
And all mankind that haunted night
Had sought their household fires.

THE OWLS
by: Charles Baudelaire

Under the overhanging yews,
The dark owls sit in solemn state,
Like stranger gods; by twos and twos
Their red eyes gleam. They meditate.

Motionless thus they sit and dream
Until that melancholy hour
When, with the sun's last fading gleam,
The nightly shades assume their power.

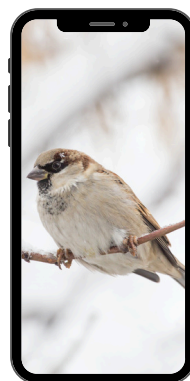
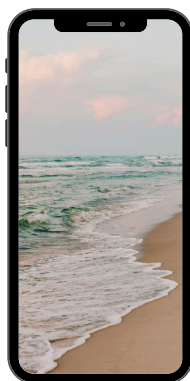
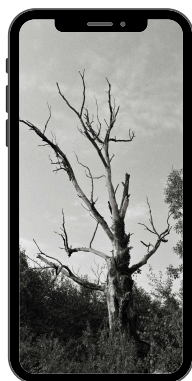
From their still attitude the wise
Will learn with terror to despise
All tumult, movement, and unrest;

For he who follows every shade,
Carries the memory in his breast,
Of each unhappy journey made.

December

Nature Photo Challenge

Try to head outside and take a picture each day with that day's prompt as an inspiration!



1 White

2 Sky

3 Sharp

4 Bird

5 Red

6 Cracks

7 Sunset

8 Shiny

9 Silver

10 Tall

11 Smooth

12 Evergreen

13 Blue

14 Cold

15 Bumpy

16 Pattern

17 Green

18 Tiny

19 Black & White

20 Symmetrical

21 Silhouette

22 Dried

23 Tracks

24 Sparkling

25 Star

26 Many

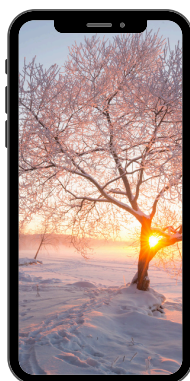
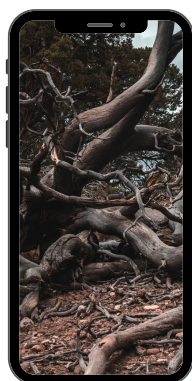
27 Delicate

28 Evening

29 Broken

30 Pointed

31 Ending



My Nature Journal

December



December Weather Tree



Rainy



Cloudy



Sunny



Snowy



December Bird List

Birds spotted this month

December Animal List

Mammals, reptiles & other wildlife spotted this month

December Nature Notes

Record any interesting discoveries here -- plants you identify, foods you forage, outdoor activities, cool nature projects, nature books read, or just notes about what it's like outside this week!

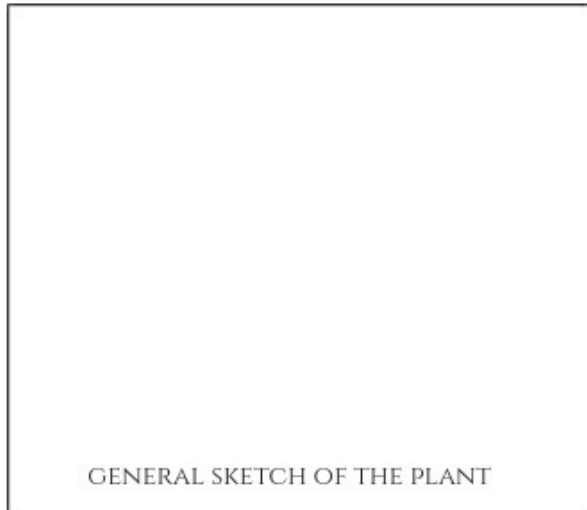
Week 1 Observations

Week 2 Observations

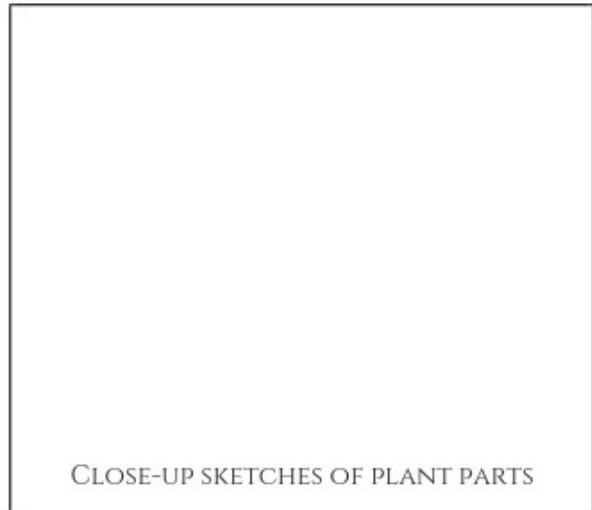
Week 3 Observations

Week 4 Observations

MY FORAGING GUIDE FOR:



GENERAL SKETCH OF THE PLANT



CLOSE-UP SKETCHES OF PLANT PARTS

LATIN NAME _____

WHERE FOUND _____

PARTS USED _____

LOOKALIKES & HOW TO POSITIVELY ID:

WARNINGS: _____

FORAGING RECORD (DATES, WHERE FOUND, HOW IT WAS USED)

MY RATING FOR THIS PLANT





Want to see your stuff in Wild Kids?

We welcome articles, photos, artwork and other submissions from kids and their grown ups.

Visit magicalchildhood.com/wildkids to learn more.