

Environmentally Kids Newsletter

The Newsletter About Kids Saving Nature. Year 2, Issue 1, June, 2022

Hello & welcome to those who are back! We hope you enjoy this next issue.



About the Newsletter

This newsletter is for people (especially kids) who want to save Nature. We really hope that you will take action in your own ways, and that this newsletter helps you start.

Scotch Broom Season

Here we are again. Scotch Broom season. This year it comes with a warning: Beware! You can hurt your arm from too much clipping. Or drop clippers on your leg! But, as long as you take it easy, you can still make a difference.

In case you didn't read our last issue, Broom is an **invasive plant**. It is also toxic to grazing animals, as well as being a **fire hazard**. Not to mention **degrading** ecosystems and farm lands!

You can recognize it by its scraggly, small oval leaves on green stems. This time of year it is flowering, so it has yellow flowers.



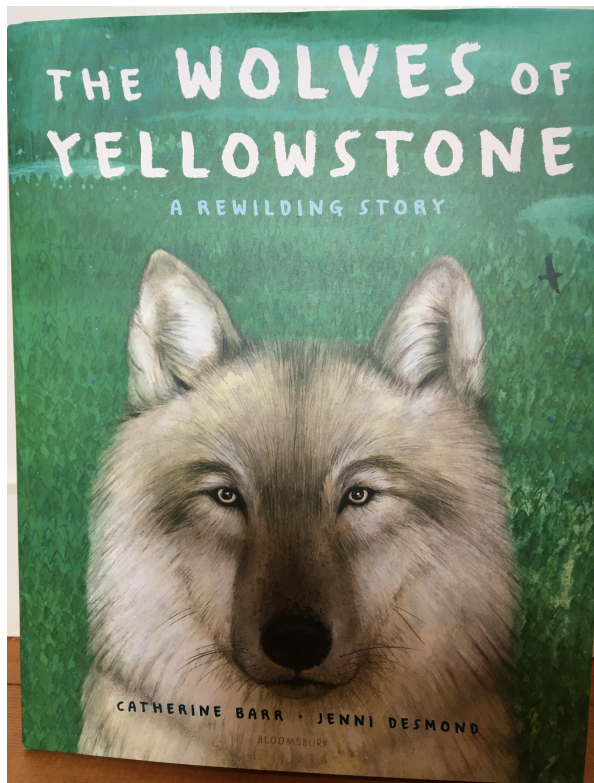
Before cutting broom, here are some things you should know.

- First, always cut it when it's in bloom. The energy is in the plants then, so when it gets cut off, it is less likely to come back.
- Second, always cut it at the base of the plant. The less stem, the better.
- Third, if you can't cut as close to the stem as is ideal, or if there is a big stump, rough it up and peel the bark.
- Fourth, try not to disturb the soil around the plant, as it makes it a good **habitat** for seeds, and they stay **viable** for up to 40 years!

Our town asks you to fill out a waiver before cutting, so if your town does as well, please do.

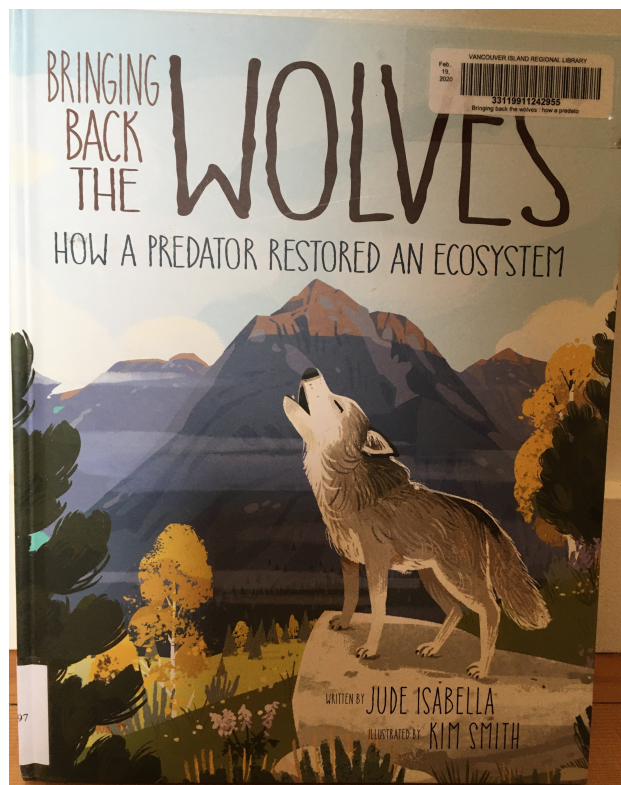
One (or two) Good Book(s)

This issue, we chose to do two books because they go hand in hand while still being their own story.



The first book, *The Wolves of Yellowstone: A Rewilding Story*, by Catherine Barr and Jenni Desmond, is about a barren ecosystem missing its top predator and how people restored wolves to the landscape. The elk overpopulated the landscape with no predators to hunt them. Before the wolves came back, they had eaten all the young tree saplings and grass so no other animals could live there. When the wolves returned, the ecosystem thrived again and everything fell into place once more. This book is about the wolves themselves and what their journey to Yellowstone National Park was like.

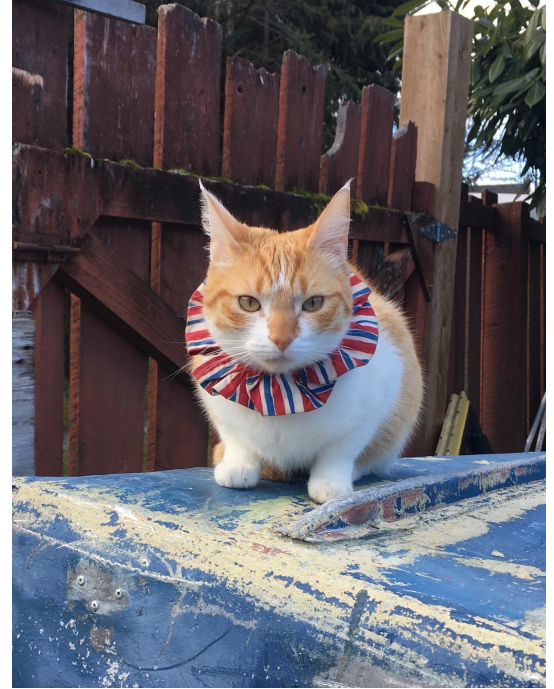
The second book, *Bringing Back the Wolves: How a Predator Restored an Ecosystem*, by Jude Isabella and Kim Smith, is about the chain reaction that the wolves brought with them. Like the first book, it is about how the wolves changed the ecosystem but it delves deeper into the food webs. It shows how it affected all the animals that lived there—some indirectly, some directly—from the birds to the grizzlies.



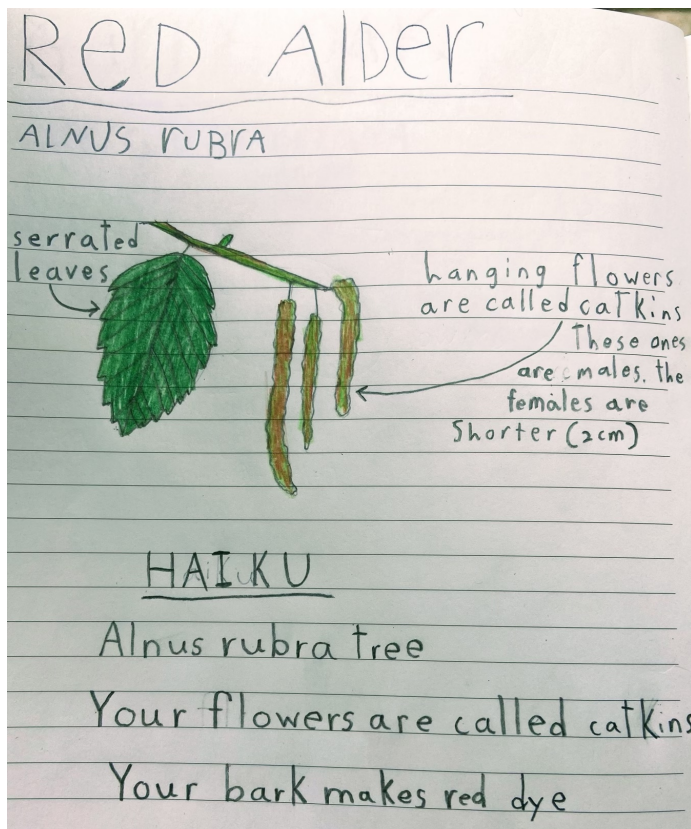
News from Members And Pet Pics



Our neighbour dog,
Cedar. Owner: Nicole



Cindy on a boat



From Amelie Nakatsuka

Important Upcoming Days/Dates and Ways to Celebrate

Come up with your own, too, and let us know what they are

World Environment Day is June 5th, 2022

- Plant a Tree
- <https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/get-involved/ecosystem-restoration-playbook>

World Oceans Day is June 8th, 2022

- <https://www.msc.org/en-au/what-you-can-do/campaign-for-change/world-oceans-day/Index/8>
- If you live near a Water body, go on a garbage walk near it.

The Summer Solstice is June 21st, 2022

- Dedicate the longest day of the year to caring for the Environment and learning about Canada's Indigenous Peoples.

Parks Day is July 16th, 2022

- Take a walk in a Nature Park

International Bog Day is July 31st, 2022

- Talk with your parents about finding peat **alternatives** for your garden to save these fragile, precious ecosystems: <https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/events/bog-day-1>

Sharing

We would love to hear from you all if you would like to share. Please submit things for the newsletter (e.g. pictures, poems, stories, etc.) to: kamillab@gmail.com. We'll include them in the "News From Members And Pet Pics" section. If you want to give a book report with a picture to include in the "One Good Book" section please email it to us.

Keep at it! Remember, together we can make the difference!

Extra Fun!

This Issue's Puzzle:

Environmentally Kids Word Search

A	B	L	H	M	E	T	S	Y	S	O	C	E	I
C	H	A	I	N	R	E	A	C	T	I	O	N	I
N	E	F	I	R	R	C	O	C	L	G	S	F	B
B	E	D	V	F	Y	V	T	U	E	E	C	A	L
S	C	R	A	G	G	L	Y	T	V	O	T	U	O
O	C	G	L	E	E	L	G	L	A	L	A	L	O
C	I	H	A	R	B	N	O	P	R	E	T	A	M
T	A	O	E	W	F	W	V	L	E	A	I	N	I
Y	T	W	O	L	F	O	N	R	F	V	B	D	N
Y	U	R	V	C	L	A	O	B	M	E	A	S	G
A	B	A	L	A	N	C	E	D	H	S	H	C	N
E	Y	G	R	E	N	E	O	T	W	I	I	A	Y
D	I	F	F	E	R	E	N	C	E	E	A	P	A
A	I	C	T	H	R	I	V	E	I	E	B	E	E

WOLVES
LANDSCAPE
ECOSYSTEM
WOLF
CHAIN REACTION
FOOD WEB
BALANCE
SCRAGGLY
DIFFERENCE
BLOOMING
THRIVE
ENERGY
LEAVES
CUT
HABITAT

Note: only
available
online until
June 29th

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/3724437/>

Glossary

These definitions are based on our own understanding, plus research.

Alternatives: Different options

Barren: A place with little or no life

Chain reaction: One thing happens, and that makes another thing happen, and that makes another thing happen, etc. A domino affect

Degrading: Falling apart and/or getting worse

Delves: Investigate/look into

Ecosystem: A complex web of different living organisms

Fire hazard: Something that lights on fire quickly

Food webs: The interconnected Plant and Animal life in an Ecosystem

Habitat: A home or place to live and thrive

Indirectly: Not directly

Invasive plant: A plant that takes over other species

Overpopulated: Densely populated; too much

Restored: To bring back to life/good condition

Rewilding: To restore a damaged Ecosystem

Tree saplings: Young trees

Top predator: A predator is an Animal that eats other Animals, such as Lions, so a top predator is one that is not hunted by other Animals, not including humans.

Viable: How long something still has life in it

Writers and publishers:

Alya & Kamilla Milligan, Cowichan Valley, British Columbia, [Unceded Territory of the Ts'ubaa-asatx Peoples](#).

Thank you for reading!