



# Terra Cognita



## A student's way of understanding the earth

**Welcome to Terra Cognita,** a student-written, environmentally-focused report on events within Skills Center Cultural & Natural Resources Program, the Olympic Peninsula, and the globe.

Spring 2014

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### First Deer I Ever Shot

by Avery Samples

I was so excited when I shot my first deer because I have had three shots on deer before that, but I couldn't get a clean shot. I chased this deer through unit after unit until we came upon this clear cut that was blocked in with trees. I was finally able to get a clean shot. It took me 5 minutes to get scoped in, and then 2-3 minutes later I took my shot and dropped it right there. It was about a half mile down this unit where the deer finally bedded down to bleed out. We walked all the way down there, gutted it, and started cutting him up. I have a backpack that can hold 43 pounds of meat. We then threw the carcass for bear bait, and the next day that carcass was gone.

Logging makes it easier for me to hunt because all the food that's left over after they are done logging is nutrients to the deer, and the deer get big and strong for next year when I can shoot them.

### What it's Like Becoming a Dad

by Kenny Brown

I use to be bad kid. I didn't do school work or care about people, and I use to party and smoke. I would be in and out of juvenile detention. I got into fights, and I was a bully. I was the bad kid everyone didn't like. I would even punk on teachers. I am a lot better now. April 30th 2013 changed my life and my thoughts about things. That was the day I met my love Kayla Henson. We met at school, and I had no idea I was going to have a kid with her. We dated for about a month and a half before we found out she was pregnant. It was a rush of fear and thinking. I didn't know what to say. We didn't plan it. We had our thoughts and I told her, I wanted to raise our baby. It's the right thing to do. Months later we found out it was a girl; Kaizley Lynn Brown was born 3/26/14. Becoming a dad changed me a lot. Still to this day I think I won't be a good dad, or I worry about keeping Kayla happy and providing for Kaizley. I'm happy too but it's just hard. I had done a lot for both of them.

### Dirt Bikes!

by Leo Sawyer-Lucas

Riding dirt bikes affects the environment by tearing up the ground and by tearing up the roots of the trees. Stay out of the woods to not affect the trees.



My favorite place to ride is on the reservation on old logging roads by the new fish hatchery. And we were able to ride because people used to log it. Many logging companies plan to sell the land and develop housing. This is going to affect my riding because there will be less woods to ride around in. I started riding when I was 5 years old, and when I got on a dirt bike, I never wanted to get off. If you went to ride a dirt bike for one day, you would love riding dirt bikes. Last but most important, riding dirt bikes is the best thing ever; you should try it.

With having a baby, it doesn't matter about you as much, and in my case I feel left out. I've worked for weeks, and every dime went to Kayla. She lives with her mom and dad. They don't really like me...The best thing to do is never give up. I have been through a lot, and I have to say this is one of the hardest things I have ever dealt with.

I don't really have stuff at my house, Kayla has it all. What I'm not looking forward to is being a weekend dad. I won't be one for long, but I know I'm going to miss out on a lot. I really want to be there for everything. Times are going to be really hard but I won't give up.



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## Forest Ecology Field Work



Here's Crystal sawing down a Tree by hand.



Jamie is showing her students the correct way to saw through a tree.



Avery and Leo are working hard to plant new trees at valley creek.



Josh is measuring out from a tree to learn its height.

Read more about how you can enroll in Natural Resources Program on page 5

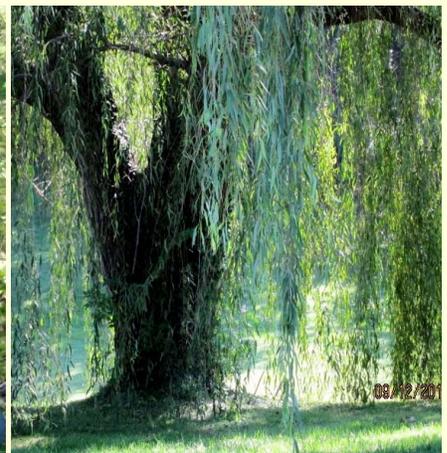
## The Willow by Stephen Huiskens

I do not believe that the willow would weep,  
If you sold her for coin,  
Sitting alone in eternity's keep  
Unable to join the living

In look of wind her branches are still,  
Seldom does she take action,  
Robbed of all motion yet given a will,  
Cruel such a creature to make,

Could she cry out in rage or sorrow?  
Forsaking her torturous sleep,  
The willow could endure the morrow  
And finally be able to weep.

There are other people who write poems, like mine above, about nature such as Tim McNulty. Tim McNulty is a poet, essayist, and a nature writer who grew up in Connecticut's Quinnipiac River Valley. He attended Northeastern University and the University of Massachusetts in Boston. There he met Denise Levertov who inspired him with her fusion of visionary poetics and political activism. He has written ten poetry books and eleven books on the natural history, books about natural events that happened in the past, and he has received the Washington State Book Award and the National Outdoor Book Award along with many other honors. Tim's poems and other pieces of literature have appeared in many U.S. publications. His natural history writings have been translated into German, Chinese, and Japanese. He also reads, teaches and conducts workshops throughout the northwest. Perhaps some day my poems could be as famous as Tim McNulty's.



Left: Stephen concentrates on his work in the field Right: The willow



There are a few terrific things we have done during this months' Forestry unit such as traveling through thick ,rainy, cold forests on higher elevations with Reed Wendel. We have studied multiple things such as finding out the trees height by standing fifty or maybe a hundred feet away from the tree. Also we found out how to determine the age of a tree by counting the rings on it, without having to cut it down. We got to be educated by Mr. Fantastic Reed Wendel about his personal career, and he presented us with his great knowledge of how trees grow and basically all about them. One of the things we have learned in this unit is that there are many different uses for each tree. Such as using the bark off of a cedar tree to make a basket or a beautiful head band and using yew wood to make clubs and anything that really requires a hard wood.

Each tree has a very unique way of growing, and they each have a very specific environment of where they grow. For an example, the western red and yellow cedar tree grows in the darkest, wettest place in the forest. And some have adapted to their environment so well they just grow about anywhere. During this unit all students got the opportunity to collect and harvest stinging nettle. We got the courtesy to go up to the college (near the soccer field) to hike on a trail and locate and pick the nettle buds and place them in a really thick bag. Then we brought them back into the class and then boiled it so it can make a very replenishing tea. The rest was sautéed and made into a delicious topping on our crackers. Also in the unit we had a chance to go to Mr. Nattinger's father's tree farm, and we had the most gracious fortune to cut down a fifty nine year old tree. We used a cross cut saw to fall the tree. Even our nearly 50 year old Native American teacher got the opportunity to saw the tree in half. (she is one tough cookie, and I'm very fortunate to have her as my teacher.) Special Report! In the natural resources options class in the Quileute reservation, a student (Marcus Obi) went out to clear cut some bushes to create a pathway through the thick pokey shrubs that can damage any man's skin. He got to witness the first spring salmon getting caught (a springer) out at the mouth of the Quileute river. The Quileutes believe that if you were to sell the fish it would be bad luck.

## Tree Bark by Crystal Edwards

Elders were sad to see logging trucks drive by with their loads of cedar trees. The trees had messed up bark that they could have used to weave different objects.

Loggers do not see the same resources of cedar bark like Native Americans do. Cedar bark is used by Native Americans to weave a lot of objects such as, baskets, hats, clothing, shoes, etc. The gathering of cedar bark is done in May to July. Logging companies can help natives out by marking trees, and calling the Lower Elwha Klallam tribe (360.452.8471) and asking for a cultural resource person to talk to about the cedar bark gathering. That way Native Americans will know they can start gathering off from certain trees before they will be cut down in the upcoming fall season.

Basket weaving is a big part of our culture and it had almost been lost. A lot of elders who knew certain ways of weaving were not able to teach anybody their ways, and had passed on. Nobody knew how to do those ways of weaving, so traditional knowledge had been lost. Another reason basket weaving is a big part of our culture is because in the earlier years, children were sent to boarding schools. At boarding schools they were not aloud to do anything cultural. Once those children returned home, the elders had already passed on so, the children didn't know how to weave. Today they have basket weaving conferences, and people from different tribes sign up to learn different ways of weaving and learn how to weave different objects.

Next time you see a beautiful cedar basket or cedar hat, think about how big of a waste it is when you see a logging truck drive by with a cedar tree that has messed up bark.



# Traditional Soaps

by Moe Charles

Some traditional soaps were made from many different plants. To make the soaps you mash the plants into a pulp or powder, mixing it with oils or water. To make your hair grow faster and thicker, soap made from stinger nettle, and horse tail, and clover would be used. But there were many other soaps; every family had different mixtures and recipes, and some were made from camas bulbs, thimbleberry leaves, cattail root, vetch vine, cotton wood and devils club berries. The berries would be the hair wash you use to kill lice, but cottonwood bark was made into a LONG strip and rolled into a fist sized ball and used as a body wash. For clover, stinger nettle, and horse tails, you mash and mix them with oil and let it sit for about a couple of weeks, you can then use this for your hair. The soaps were used every day when they would take a bath in the rivers/streams/creeks/ocean.

Whether it was rain, sun, or snow, they would take a bath and use it, and afterwards, people had whatever plant they wanted to use to rub on their body to act as a perfume. When it was winter, or if the water felt cold to the kids, the parents would tie a rope or string to their kids, and when they would run out of the water (because it was too cold), they would pull the string and make them sit in the water until the steam came off of the kids, and when they were done, some people would beat themselves with cedar bows until their skin was red so that way they would have a strong pain tolerance. Fisher men would beat themselves with stinger nettle so that when they go out onto the water, they won't get cold. Hunters would rub cedar bows or some other plants all over their bodies so that way they wouldn't smell like a person, but instead, a plant or tree so they could sneak up on the animal they were going to kill.



# The Difference Between Timber and Lumber

by Josh Watson

Timber: growing trees themselves.

Lumber: timber sawed or split into planks, boards, etc.

There is a difference between Lumber and timber, but they are both obviously wooden products. In many places worldwide, these two words are used interchangeably. However, there are some regions that make certain distinctions between the two. Mostly, timber is said to be the wood that is currently rooted and is attached firmly to the ground. Timber is the term used for a tree that has not yet been processed into lumber.

On the contrary, lumber is generally accepted as the wood that is no longer attached to the ground and is often seen as the laid down or processed wood. Secondly, timber is usually the term used for a piece of wood that still has its bark on, whereas lumber is usually bark-less in nature. The latter usually undergoes a drying process and has a firm finish to it. Lumber is often prepared with accurate measurements and is almost always ready for use in construction and furniture making. Wood is usually used to refer to the material in its natural state. Lumber refers to it after it has been modified by man. So you go to the forest to collect wood for the fire, and to the DIY store to get lumber for doing up your house.

We are all not informed of this fact, and we need to be if we are in need of timber or lumber. In the act of making a foundation of a small building you need to have lumber, when you need a tree for wood to make art or a wooden tool and/or toy you'll need to get timber. If we need the difference, then we should know the difference.

## Skills Center Natural Resources

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**Skills Center Natural Resources offers a variety of hands-on skills training options for students 16-21 who do not have a high school diploma. Enrollment is open now.**



## VIP Volunteers at the Olympic National Park Visitor Center by Stefanie Colliton

As a newly minted VIP volunteer at the Olympic National Park Visitor Center, I embarked on an orientation field trip along with several other members of the crew. We traveled to Fourth Beach near Kalaloch, where we saw an enormous community of sea stars and anemones, to the lush Hoh Rainforest, where we witnessed a herd of elk having a relaxing afternoon break, and then finally to La Push, where we scored a gorgeous leaping gray whale. This expedition was fantastic and familiarized me with all of the beauty of the unique Olympic National Park, allowing me to truly get into touch with our very own, million acre backyard.

As a VIP, I work behind the desk at the Visitor Center every Sunday and enlighten tourists from all around the world; guests from Australia, Japan, India, and England, as well as other sectors of the United States, observe the Olympic Peninsula as a magical, exotic place. I have already absorbed plenty of job skills, including customer service as a cashier, and have developed patience and stronger communication skills through public interaction. Volunteering has significantly improved my current work ethic by challenging me to maintain a professional presence as a representative of this widely popular tourist attraction.

I would strongly recommend this internship position as VIP volunteer to any students currently, or interested in being enrolled, in the Natural Resources program who wish to learn proficiency through hands-on job experience and who enjoy working with others. For more information, contact Natural Resources teacher Daniel Lieberman at 360-565-1892.

## Natural Resources I Class Preview: Upcoming Spring Units and Projects

Wetlands and Waterfowl Unit

Marine Science Unit

Students will spy for water fowl on ponds and report data to WA Department of Fish and Wildlife. Then, students will conduct inter-tidal studies, following professional protocols.

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