

This tree has  
been waiting for  
so long, it finally  
decided to let go,  
to flow with its  
emotions and

excitement, to  
swirl, sparkle, and  
dance with the wind  
to be itself, TO  
BE LIKE NO OTHER  
TREE.

Jace

# A Forest of Words

Youth Voices Celebrate the Tongass National Forest



*An exhibit featuring  
forest-inspired art and  
words created by area school  
children, with works by  
nature artist Andie Thrams.*

## Tongass Historical Museum

January 20 - February 25, 2012

### *Opening Reception*

*Friday, January 20, 5 - 7 PM*



*A Forest of Words* is a collaborative exhibit by the USDA Forest Service and the Tongass Historical Museum.

Ketchikan Museums  
629 Dock Street  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Non-profit  
organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Ketchikan, Alaska  
Permit No. 95

Front image: Tree by Jacie Johansen, Ketchikan. Back: Word Tree by Hannah Marr, Ketchikan.

# A Forest of Words: Youth Voices Celebrate the Tongass National Forest

In celebration of 2011 International Year of Forests, students in communities across the Tongass National Forest participated in the “Forest of Words” conservation education activity. The goal of the activity was to engage youth in reflection on the forest’s connection to their lives and to create artworks inspired by their feelings about the forest. With guidance from their teachers, the students discussed reflecting phrases such as the following and created artworks in response.

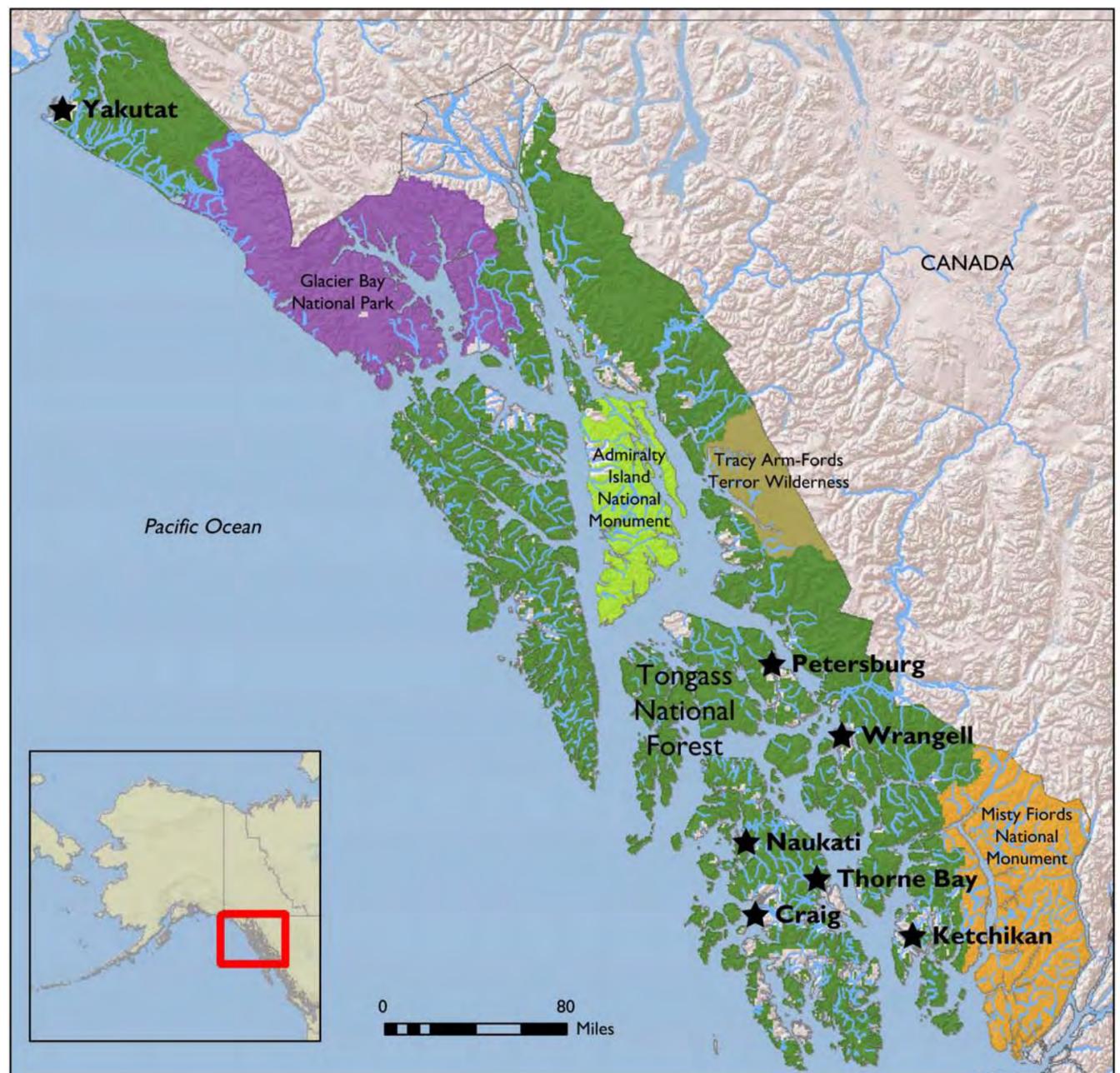


- When I think of the Tongass National Forest I think of \_\_\_\_\_.
- I feel that the Tongass National Forest gives me a place to \_\_\_\_\_.
- When I am in or near the Tongass National Forest I feel \_\_\_\_\_.
- I have \_\_\_\_\_ because the Tongass National Forest belongs to all of us.
- The most fun I had on the Tongass National Forest was \_\_\_\_\_.
- If I could go to one place on the Tongass National Forest it would be \_\_\_\_\_.
- If I could give you one message about the Tongass National Forest it would be \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is what I could do to help the Tongass National Forest.
- My favorite part of the Tongass National Forest is \_\_\_\_\_.
- If I had to pick one thing on the Tongass National Forest to change it would be \_\_\_\_\_.
- If I could bring one person to the Tongass National Forest with me it would be \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.
- My favorite way of getting to the Tongass National Forest is \_\_\_\_\_.
- If I could share one memory of the Tongass National Forest it would be \_\_\_\_\_.
- Pick a place on the forest:  
Most beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ Most exciting \_\_\_\_\_ Most safe \_\_\_\_\_  
Least beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ Least exciting \_\_\_\_\_ Least safe \_\_\_\_\_

## A Forest of Words: Community Partners

Youth from the following communities across the Tongass National Forest participated in the “Forest of Words” conservation education activity and have their artwork on display in this exhibit:

- Yakutat
- Petersburg
- Wrangell
- Naukati
- Thorne Bay
- Craig
- Ketchikan



Map credit: Wild Salmon Center

“A Forest of Words” is a collaborative exhibition by the **U.S. Forest Service** and the **Tongass Historical Museum**.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Artwork by Elizabeth Jackson, Tongass School of Arts & Sciences, Ketchikan.

# A Forest of Words

Youth Voices Celebrate the  
Tongass National Forest

*An exhibit featuring  
forest-inspired art and words  
created by area school children,  
with works by nature  
artist Andie Thrans.*

**Tongass Historical Museum**

*January 20 - February 25, 2012*

# A Forest of Words

Youth Voices Celebrate the Tongass National Forest



# Yakutat Schools

## Yakutat, Alaska

**Instructor:** Tom Faverty

**Grades:** 2nd and 3rd

**Students participating:** 13

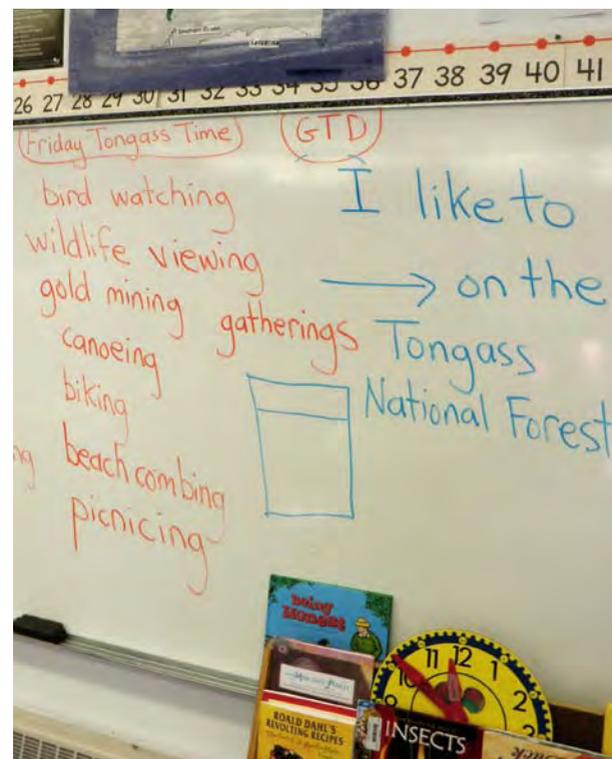
**Forest Service contact:** Susan Oehlers

**Reflecting phrase:**

I like to \_\_\_\_\_ on the Tongass National Forest.

**Activity:**

Students illustrated their favorite things to do on the forest using colored pencil and markers on paper.



I like to fish on the  
Tongass National Forest



I like to hunting on  
Tongass National  
Forest.



I like to go fishing  
in the Tongass  
National Forest

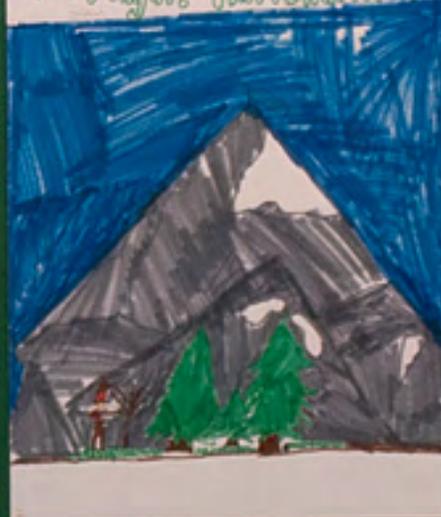


Yakutat  
Yakutat Schools  
Grades 2 & 3  
Teacher Tom Favery

I LIKE TO  
GO CAMPING  
on the Tongass  
National Forest



I like to hunt  
on Tongass National Forest



I like to  
kayak-board on the  
Tongass National  
Forest



James

I like to go camping on the  
Tongass National Forest



I like to go camping on the Tongass  
National  
Forest



I like to swim  
on the Tongass National  
Forest



# Rae Stedman Elementary School

Petersburg, Alaska



**Instructor:** Jill Lenhard

**Grades:** Mixed elementary grades ESL class

**Students participating:** 11

**Forest Service contact:** Karen Dillman

## Reflecting phrase:

When I think of the Tongass National Forest, I think of \_\_\_\_\_.

## Activity:

The Forest Service translated the “Forest of Words” activity into Spanish, “**Bosque de Palabras,**” for Spanish-speaking students. Students went on a nature walk and then created a large construction paper tree with drawings on trunk pieces, branches, and leaves. They also wrote paragraphs about the forest and pasted those on the leaves. The tree was on display at the Tongass Rainforest Festival in September.



The First  
Tlingit, Haida  
Tsimshian He

A large green wall display featuring a central tree cutout. The tree has a brown trunk and branches, with several green leaves and a yellow canopy. Numerous small photographs and text cards are pinned to the wall around the tree, including a photo of a group of people, a photo of a person in a blue shirt, and a photo of a person in a red shirt. A small white card with the word "Ancestry" is visible on the right side of the tree.

A green wall display with a yellow upper section. The wall features several vertical panels with drawings of trees and other illustrations. The drawings include a large evergreen tree, a smaller evergreen tree, and a drawing of a person in a blue shirt. The wall is decorated with a silhouette of a forest line at the bottom.



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# Petersburg Children's Center Eagles Nest Petersburg, Alaska

**Instructor:** Hannah Jackson

**Grades:** Kindergarten through 4th

**Students participating:** 8

**Forest Service contact:** Linda Slaght

## Reflecting phrase:

My favorite thing about the Tongass National Forest is \_\_\_\_\_.

## Activity:

Students went on a nature walk and then made their own leaf prints on paper with leaves, paint, and crayons.





Like the first one, I used  
my hands to make a leaf and  
a fern. I used my fingers to  
make the veins on the leaf and  
the fern.



I used my hands to make  
a leaf and a fern. I used  
my fingers to make the veins  
on the leaf and the fern.



I used my hands to make  
a leaf and a flower. I used  
my fingers to make the veins  
on the leaf and the petals  
on the flower.



I used my hands to make  
a flower and a leaf. I used  
my fingers to make the petals  
on the flower and the veins  
on the leaf.



I used my hands to make  
a flower and a leaf. I used  
my fingers to make the petals  
on the flower and the veins  
on the leaf.

**Petersburg**  
Petersburg Children's Center  
Grades K - 4  
Teacher: Hannah Jackson



I used my hands to make  
a flower and a leaf. I used  
my fingers to make the petals  
on the flower and the veins  
on the leaf.



# Tongass Rainforest Festival Workshop

## Petersburg, Alaska

**Artist instructor:** Andie Thrams

**Grades:** Mixed elementary grades

**Students participating:** 25

**Forest Service contact:** Karen Dillman

**Reflecting phrase:**

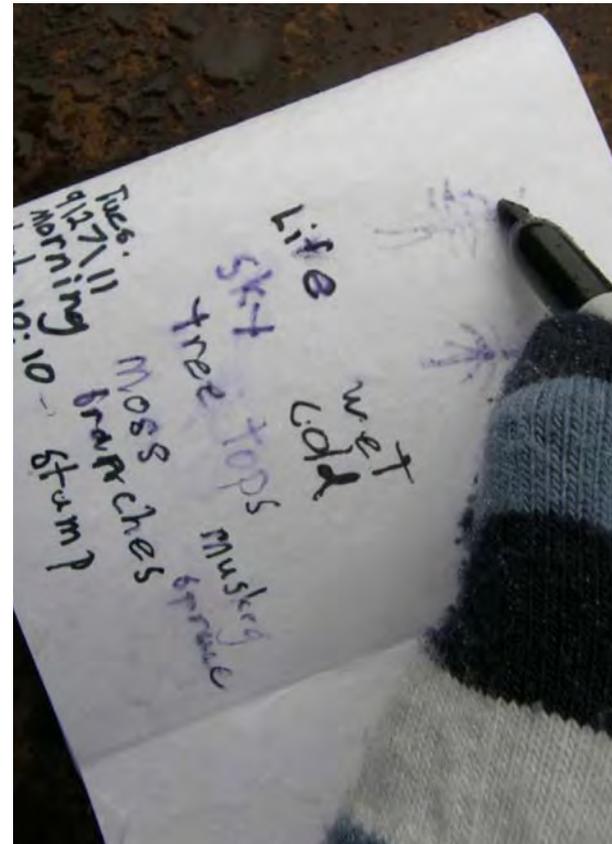
My favorite part of the Tongass National Forest is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Activity:**

Students learned about the artist Andie Thrams's techniques for field painting and bookmaking and went on a nature walk on which they took notes of their own field observations. They then painted watercolors on their notes to create their own folding books.



INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF FORESTS • 2011



ts  
al Forest



# Evergreen Elementary School Wrangell, Alaska

**Instructor:** Arlene Wilson

**Grade:** 1st

**Students participating:** 13

**Forest Service contacts:**

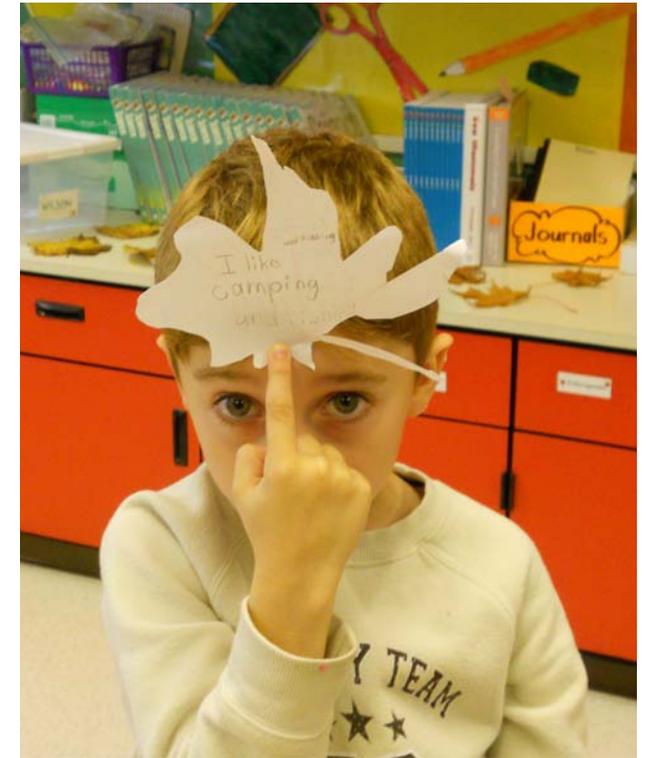
Corree Seward and Madeleine Smith

**Reflecting phrase:**

The most fun I had on the Tongass National Forest is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Activity:**

Students acted out being trees and created leaf rubbings with crayon on paper, adding what they like to do in the forest on the top of the leaves.





Wangell  
Langston Elementary School  
Grade 1  
Teacher: Krista Olson



# Naukati School

## Naukati, Alaska



**Instructor:** Kimberly Hoover

**Grades:** 2nd through 8th

**Students participating:** 10

**Forest Service contact:** Brandy Prefontaine

### **Reflecting phrases:**

The most fun I had on the Tongass National Forest is \_\_\_\_\_.

If I could share one memory of the Tongass National Forest it would be \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Activity:**

Students went on a nature walk and wrote messages about the Tongass National Forest. They also wrote narratives based on the reflecting phrases and produced slide presentations enriched with recordings of their own voices.



Kaden Hoover: Naukati

adi  
 I am happy with air  
 and to tell my friends  
 in nature and to have  
 school and wofel

Cole Brookings: Naukati

*[Faint handwritten text on lined paper]*

**Naukati**

Naukati School

Grades 2 - 8

Teacher Kimberly Hoover

Eugene Gallows: Naukati

Even  
 To Mass  
 The tongue is good for me  
 and especially yellow  
 It helped me learn many languages

Caitlyn Hammonds: Naukati

Notes - I am happy with Brandtz  
 what and you are good about the  
 my name is good to the  
 in nature to the world

Beth Plelan: Naukati

*[Faint handwritten text on lined paper]*

Emma Hammonds: Naukati

*[Handwritten text with a drawing of a house and trees]*

Jessie Brookings: Naukati

*[Faint handwritten text on lined paper]*

If I could share one memory of the Tongass National Forest it would be the time we went to Sarkar in the Spring.



LG

PowerPoint Presentation



**Naukati**

Naukati School

Grades 2 - 8

Teacher Kimberly Hoover

Video



**Petersburg, Alaska**

Rae Stedman Elementary School

Alaska Teen Media Institute  
Workshop

# Thorne Bay School

Thorne Bay, Alaska

**Instructor:** Megan Fitzpatrick

**Grades:** 6th through 8th science

**Students participating:** 12

**Forest Service contact:** Brandy Prefontaine

## Reflecting phrase:

Students responded to multiple phrases and adapted them to reflect on the future School Forest Trail.

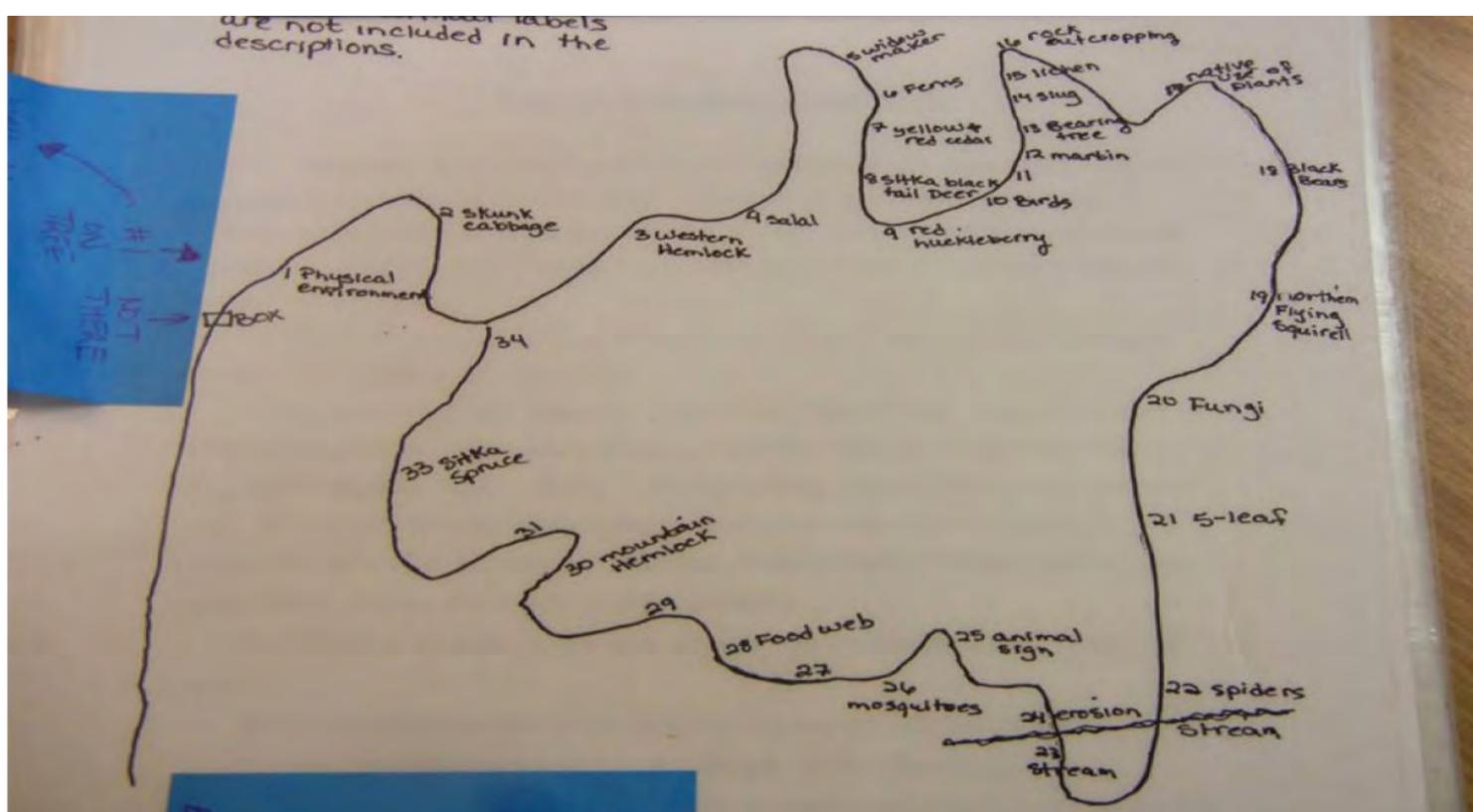
## Activity:

Students planned a School Forest Trail adjacent to their classroom and wrote their thoughts about the trail and what it means to them. They also created a large mural featuring a food web based on their field study.



# Thorne Bay School: School Forest Trail

## Thorne Bay, Alaska



### Students' reflections on the new School Forest Trail:

"I feel that the school trail gives me a place to relax." - Charlie Cabe

"I have pried because the School Forest Trail belongs to all of us." - Iesha Searle

"The most fun I had on the school forest trail was trying to beat all the boys to each number and find the next one." - Taylee Nyquest

"If I could go to one place on the School Forest Trail it would be around Number 23. I picked this spot because you can hear the stream moving and it is so peaceful."  
- Carmen Landers

"My favorite part of the school forest trail is between numbers 28 and 29 where there's a small creek that runs through the trail." - Quinn Slayton

"If I had to pick one thing on the School Forest Trail to change, I would make it so that there is a short trail and a long trail. That way, if you wanted to go for stroll to think, you could take the short trail. And if you wanted to go for an actual hike, you could take the longer trail and enjoy more of the scenery." - Madi Willard

"If I could bring one person to the School Forest Trail with me it would be my cousin Cambell because it is filled with exciting things that would be new to him. He would love to see all the different wildlife and terrain. He is 6 and has lived in the city his whole life so the School Forest Trail would be a big adventure for him." - Amy Jensen

"My favorite way up the school forest trail is to hike a quarter way around the school field and then cross a stream and walk up through the woods to the trail."  
- Jake Minnillo

My favorite way up to the Tongass National Forest is to hike a quarter way around the school field and then cross a stream



and walk up through the woods to the trail.

Thorne Bay  
Thorne Bay, Alaska  
Grade 7 & 8  
Teacher: [Name]

# Craig Elementary School

Craig, Alaska



**Instructor:** Lorraine Pierce

**Grades:** 3rd and 4th

**Students participating:** 21

**Forest Service contact:** Victoria Houser

**Reflecting phrase:**

When I am in or near the Tongass National Forest I feel \_\_\_\_\_.

**Activity:**

Students went on a forest exploration walk and learned about the scientific method by responding to the question, "When we visit the temperate rainforest, what do we expect to observe?" They also wrote and illustrated haiku poems about their thoughts on the Tongass National Forest.



# Tongass School of Arts and Sciences

## Ketchikan, Alaska



**Instructor:** Lauren McCue

**Grade:** Kindergarten through 6th

**Students participating:** 108

**Forest Service contact:** Faith Duncan

### **Reflecting phrases:**

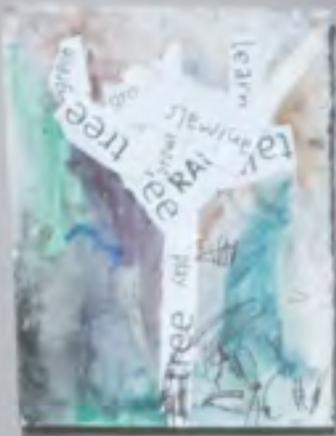
*A poem was created with these themes and included on headers for display above the artwork:*

- *Kindergarten:* When I think of the Tongass National Forest, I think of lots of trees that are the same and different.
- *1st and 2nd grades:* It's a magical forest.
- *3rd and 4th grades:* Words and art express our ideas.
- *5th and 6th grades:* Trees are the life of the forest.

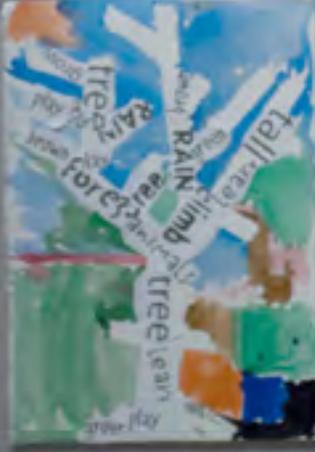
### **Activity:**

- Kindergarten students created watercolor word trees.
- First and second grade students created mixed media collages and paintings on paper.
- Third and fourth grade students created mixed media collages and ink and colored pencil drawings and word art on mat board.
- Fifth and sixth grade students created mixed media drawings and paintings on mat board.

# Trees are The same and Different



Ketchikan  
Project: Trees of the Rain Forest  
1998-2000  
Ketchikan, Alaska



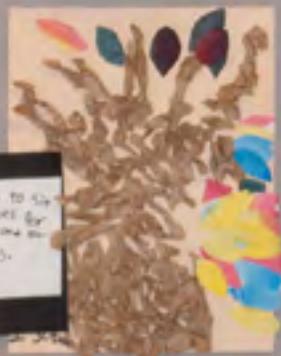
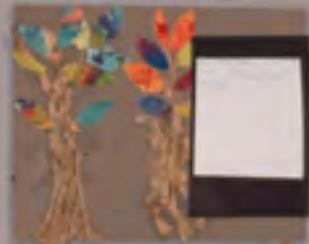
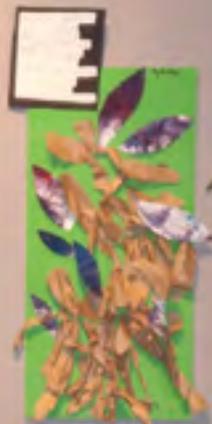
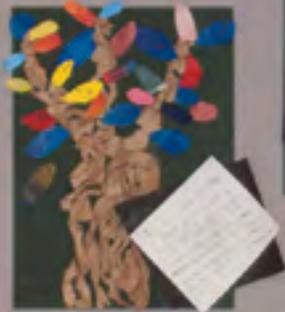


Artist's name and other information.



Overall title or exhibition name.





Kashmir  
Himalayas  
1972



I like to go  
on trees for  
fruit and  
cherries.





I like trees because they make air clean.



with the help of my friends I did this.



Trees are my friends, they are full of life. Trees also give you shade.



I like trees when ever I go camping because in the trees there are many animals that I like.

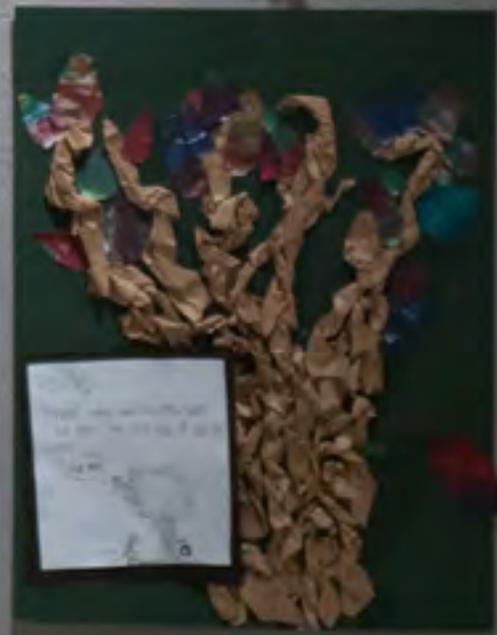
Alvin



Trees  
Trees are very important to us because they give us oxygen and they are beautiful.

I love trees

Trees  
Trees are very important to us because they give us oxygen and they are beautiful.



Trees are very important to us because they give us oxygen and they are beautiful.

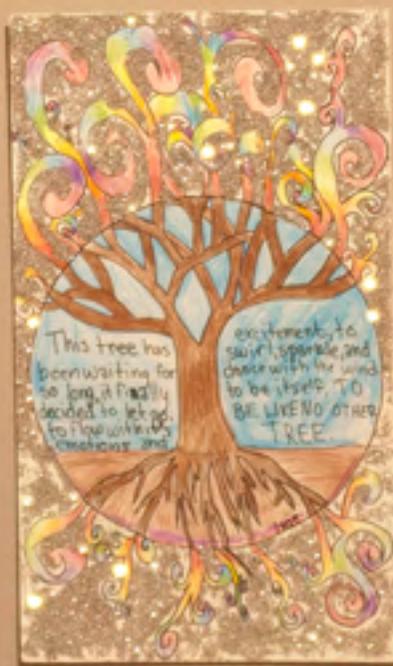
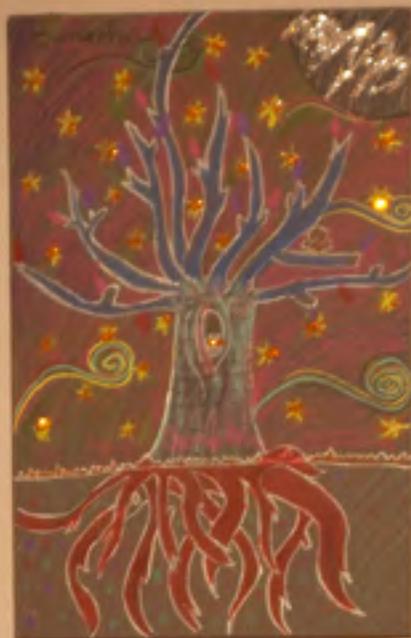




Trees are the life of the forest...

Mark Fisher  
Creative Director of Arts & Activities  
Grimes 2-1-2  
Tutor of Environmental Art  
www.environmentalart.com









Ketchikan  
Ketchikan Charter School  
Grade 1  
Teacher: Hall Kasper

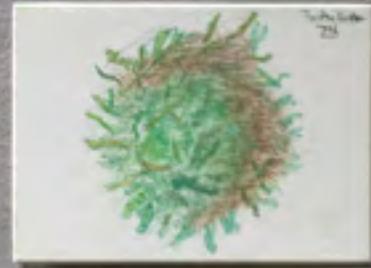


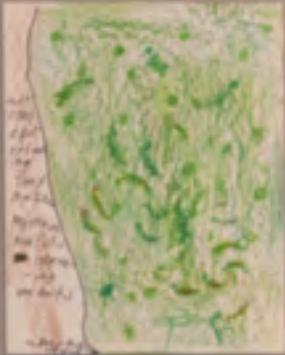
Three large green paper cutouts of tree branches, likely representing different types of trees or stages of growth.



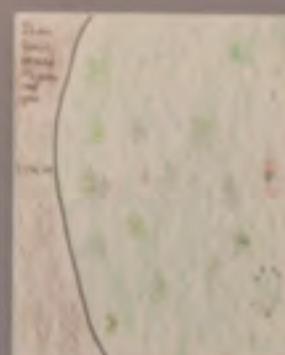
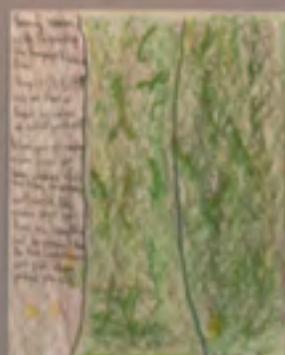
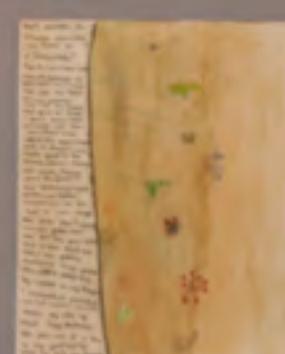
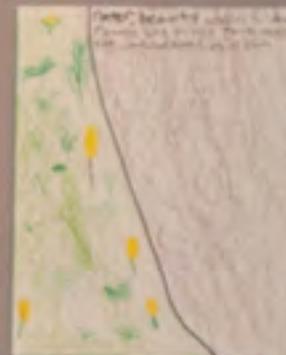
A small white label with illegible text, likely providing information about the illustrations or the tree cutouts.







**Ketchikan**  
Ketchikan Charter School  
Grade 5  
Teacher: Hall Karsner





Watercolor  
Illustrations of trees  
and forest scenes  
by [unreadable]



## A Forest of Words Guest Artist: Andie Thrams



Andie Thrams is a California-based visual artist and occasional publisher as Larkspur Graphics. Her lifelong devotion to creative work in wilderness locations, especially within the pages of her field journals, has evolved into the artist's books now held in prominent private and public collections at Yale University and the University of Washington, among others.

She earned a B.A. in art practice from the University of California Berkeley and teaches for the San Francisco Center for the Book and San Francisco State University Sierra Nevada Field Campus. Ms. Thrams is currently creating a series of artist's books called, *IN FORESTS*. These books, which record her experiences during treks on foot and by kayak into wild forests from California to Alaska, are a contemporary hybrid of the illuminated manuscript and the field journal.

In September 2011, she traveled to Petersburg, Alaska to work in the Tongass National Forest during a nine-day solo stay at the U.S. Forest Service cabin at Breiland Slough. While there, she worked outdoors in all types of weather, often beneath a tarp, and created images for *IN FORESTS* artist's books about the Tongass.

Ms. Thrams also gave a workshop for youth during the Tongass Rainforest Festival in Petersburg. Participants went on a nature walk and created artist's books with their own words and paintings inspired by the Tongass National Forest. Many of these youth works are on display in this exhibit.

**A Forest of Words: Cover Artist  
Austie Thomas**



Austie Thomas is an Atlanta-based visual artist and occasional publisher at *Leaflet*. Originally the "Forest Journal," it evolved into the artist's books and books for galleries, artists, and public institutions at large, showcasing work by University of Washington, among others.

Thomas is an art professor at the University of California Berkeley and teaches for the San Francisco Center for the Book and San Francisco State University's Bay Area Book Campus. He Thomas is currently creating a series of artist's books called *WILDFLOWERS*. These books, which record his experiences during hikes on Mount and in the wildflowers from California to Alaska, are a contemporary version of the traditional relationship with the forest journal.

In September 2011, she traveled to Redding, Alaska, to work in the Tongue National Forest during a time the wild side of the 1.5 million-acre forest was in bloom. While there, she searched mountains in all types of weather, often beneath a mist, and captured images for the *WILDFLOWERS* artist's books about the Tongue.

His Thomas also gave instructions for artists during the Tongue Redwood Festival at Redding. Participants went on a nature walk and created artist's books with their own words and paintings inspired by the Tongue National Forest. Many of these plants and animals appear in the artist's.



*WILDFLOWERS*, No. 11  
Austie Thomas, 2011  
Mixed media, 10 x 10 in.



*WILDFLOWERS*, No. 12  
Austie Thomas, 2011  
Mixed media, 10 x 10 in.



*WILDFLOWERS*, No. 13  
Austie Thomas, 2011  
Mixed media, 10 x 10 in.



# A Forest of Words Guest Artist: Rich Stage



Ketchikan-based artist Rich Stage creates beautiful metal sculptures of natural subjects and was commissioned to build steel tree sculptures for “A Forest of Words.”



Western  
Red Cedar  
Thuja plicata

## The Tongass National Forest would like to thank...

- The **345 students** in schools around the Tongass who submitted their art in celebration of the Tongass National Forest, and their teachers: **Tom Faverty** (Yakutat), **Jill Lenhard** (Petersburg), **Hannah Jackson** (Petersburg), **Arlene Wilson** (Wrangell), **Kimberly Hoover** (Naukati), **Megan Fitzpatrick** (Thorne Bay), **Lorraine Pierce** (Craig), **Halli Kenyoer** (Ketchikan), and **Loren McCue** (Ketchikan).



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF FORESTS • 2011**

- Tongass National Forest employees **Karen Dillman, Victoria Houser, Susan Oehlers, Brandy Prefontaine, Corree Seward, Linda Slaght,** and **Madeleine Smith,** for leading the Forest of Words conservation education activity with participating teachers.
- Ketchikan Historical Museum staff **Michael Naab, Richard Van Cleave, Lacey Simpson, Erika Brown,** and **Holly Anniskett** and Tongass National Forest employees **Faith Duncan** and **Jennifer Kane,** for organizing and mounting the show.
- Ketchikan framer **Colleen Brown,** for providing mounting services for much of the art in the show.
- Ketchikan art teachers **Loren McCue** and **Halli Kenoyer,** for helping to mount the show.

## And special thanks to...

- Visual artist **Andie Thrams,** for inspiring students to create forest-related art and for lending examples of her own forest art for this show, including a book with works created at a Forest Service cabin outside Petersburg.
- Ketchikan metal artist **Rich Stage,** for creating exquisite “cedar tree” steel sculptures for this show.

**\*[Click here to visit exhibit reception photos online.](#)**