

Finding Tiny

by Josiah Alberghene, 8
Nashua, NH

One day my family and I went fishing. There were a lot of mosquitoes, and we saw a loon. The air was full of the call of the great blue heron. I think we saw the one that was calling. All was quiet except for us and the heron.

When we moved to a different part of the lake, my brother and I went exploring. This place was very muddy. I think there were purple martins flying above us. We got two or three feet away from a family of geese! There was also something in the water that we thought was an otter or beaver, but then we realized it was just a log.

I was looking down and saw something bright on a stick. It was a baby turtle! He looked like a brown Oreo cookie with legs and yellow and red stripes. I carefully

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walked right up to the water and quickly reached out to grab him. That only knocked him into the water. I reached again and this time I got him.

Everyone was very excited. We put him in a bucket so we could get a better look at him. The turtle looked like he didn't know what was happening. He just looked around

slowly. It seemed like he was saying, "Where am I?" We named him Tiny because that is what he was! I thought it was the best find ever.

We would have liked to keep him as a pet, but in the end, we knew he would be happier in the wild. It was very sad to let him go, but I felt happy about it when we did. Maybe someday I'll see Tiny again!



Rules for the May 2011 Story Time Contest

Nature Friend Story Contest

I'm guessing you have already read the stories that were selected for this year's story contest. Weren't they interesting? I can almost "see" frogs sliding down the throat of a heron. And think about seeing a beautiful red fox on white snow actually catching prey as Isaac did. I've heard of foxes in the hen house, but bears?!

You folks, our reader family, have a lot of fun stories to tell the rest of us. Already we are planning another story contest for the May 2011 issue. Like this year, the stories not selected for the May issue will automatically be considered for the June readers' issue.

Who Can Enter?

Families that subscribe to the *Nature Friend* magazine. We will have four age categories: 6-8, 9-11, 12-14, and 15-17. Please put your name, age, and address on every sheet, or with every e-mailed submission. Manuscripts that are not properly identified will be disqualified.

Adults are still invited to submit material; however, we will consider those manuscripts for other issues throughout the year.

What Kind of Story?

An excellent place to start is by reading and doing the lessons on creative writing that Judy Kauffman has in each *Study Guide*. (If you haven't subscribed to the *Study Guide* and wish to, call 1-877-434-0765.)

Other story ideas include:

My unusual nature experience · Ways I have interacted with nature · A lesson I learned from nature · Any other nature-related theme

We are looking for a true story about you—something you can share with the rest of us so we can enjoy the experience too. The above themes are only idea starters, and not story titles.

How Do I Prepare My Story?

Type or handwrite your story on ONE side of an 8½" x 11" paper. Put your name and address on each sheet you send. While we are saying 400 words or less is our goal, some stories just naturally need more words to tell them well. If your story is one of those, send it anyway. Adult stories may be up to 800 words. Remember, your story needs a title. Stories will not be returned, so please keep a copy for yourself.

Where Do I Send My Story?

Mail to: *Nature Friend Story Time 2011*, 4253 Woodcock Lane, Dayton, VA 22821. You may also e-mail your story to storytime2011@naturefriendmagazine.com

Deadline for Entering:

Your story should be postmarked by February 10, 2011.

Awards:

We will be choosing three stories from each age category. While many contests declare a First Place, Second Place, and Third Place, we realize that declaring one story is better than another may be a very challenging undertaking. Therefore, we have chosen to randomly select one story from our three choices for each category, and that writer will receive a pair of binoculars, compliments of Nature's Workshop Plus. The remaining eight writers will receive...well...let's say a surprise. So far we haven't decided on those awards yet.

Nature's Workshop Plus has an extensive catalog featuring all kinds of fun and useful things for nature lovers and homeschoolers. To order their catalog, call 888-393-5663, or send a request to Nature's Workshop Plus, P.O. Box 425, Danville, IN 46122-0425.