

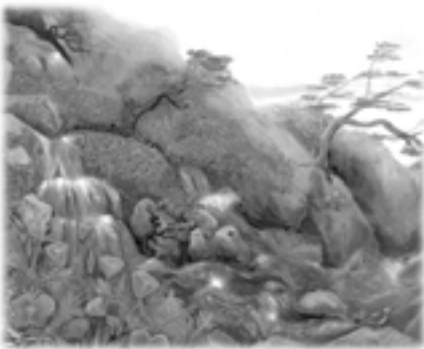
~Portfolio~
•Writing
•Desktop Publishing



SHARING NATURE with CHILDREN

— A Newsletter from Dawn Publications • Spring 2007

Experiencing Rivers -by Steve Van Zandt-



*Steve Van Zandt—author, musician, and river guide—is always looking for child-friendly ways to inspire his young audiences. That's what he does as an environmental educator, Banana Slug String Band member and songwriter, and now as author of the new book **River Song**. If you are from California, or studying geology, you will enjoy the following little exercise. No matter what watershed you live in, you will appreciate Steve's creative approach. (Editor's note)*

Try this! Place both hands out in front of you, palms up, with the sides of your hands touching. Now raise your fingers straight up, keeping your palms flat. The California watershed is in your hands. See Lake Tahoe where your pinkies come together. That clear jewel of a lake with water depths of over 1,500 feet is surrounded by 10,000-foot peaks. There's Mount Whitney, rising up from your right hand, a 12,000-foot peak in the South Eastern Sierra. Look down now to the Central Valley. That deep depression in your right palm is the San Joaquin River. The Sierra sheds its water into it as rivers like the Kern and the Stanislaus run down your fingers. Your left hand holds the Sacramento watershed fed by the northern rivers like the McCloud, the Feather and the American. At their confluence is the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta where the water forms 700 miles of wetlands before entering San Francisco Bay.

that all he needed to do in order to fall asleep was listen to the freeway and imagine it was a river. I was fortunate to have spent a summer in a tent right next to a river while working as a raft guide. There I discovered the joy of exploring side creeks, a playful art that I call "salmoning." This is where you walk up stream, finding clear pools to dive into, small falls to get behind and warm rocks for playing lizard. I love to listen to the constant sound of a river, the one that makes you think flow.

There is also the bass sound that goes rapidly into the hollows between granite boulders. The loveliest, I think, are the high blurps and pops that dance over a shallow bar.

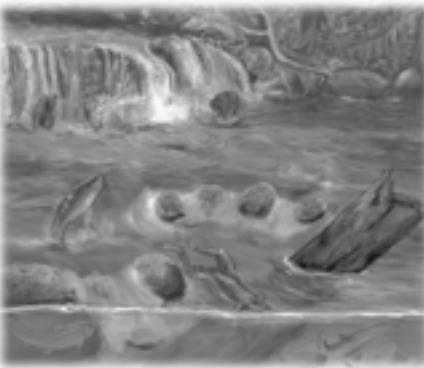
River Song was written as a tribute to these experiences. It also came from a need to be vocal about keeping rivers wild and free, and protecting watersheds. Twenty-five years ago three fellow naturalist/musicians and I formed the Banana Slug String Band and we have sung these waltzing lyrics to young and old, and to the river itself. We are dedicated to working with others to continue building support for watershed awareness and education. The river teaches ecology and science, but it also piques a sense of wonder and inspires the arts. It initiates community service and ties our lives together in ever-expanding ways. As we teach about bioregionalism, conservation and riparian habitats, let's not forget the river. Our students need to touch it, walk its course and sit with it. We all do.

The next time that you find yourself near a still, shallow stream, try looking at its three layers. Focus your eyes on the bottom. Scan back and forth. See who left a footprint. Then adjust your eyes to see only the surface. Then look down and get taken in by its reflection.



Resources:

- www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/
Find your watershed address.
- www.watersheds.org/kids/shedsheet.htm
A print-ready handout for students.
- www.creec.org/
Easily searchable environmental education resources and programs.
- www.smcoe.k12.ca.us/outdoored/
Find out about the programs offered at San Mateo Outdoor Education, where Steve Van Zandt is Site Director.



Now that your hands are in such a receptive position, go find your local stream, creek or pond and fill your hands, toss it into the air, dip your head and celebrate. Better yet, take your shoes off and step in. There's nothing more alive than being ankle-deep with smooth washed pebbles and current between your toes. If you're with a bunch of kids call it the "freeze out club" and anticipate what goodness will come when your socks start warming you again.

My relationship with watersheds came from growing up in West Los Angeles and spending many long days at Santa Monica Beach. My father used to say

FEATURED AUTHOR



Banana Slug String Band
with **Steve Van Zandt**
(second from bottom)

The fitting tagline on the Banana Slug String Band's website is "Science, Song, and Celebration!" Along with travelling around the country doing educator workshops and performing together for over 21 years, the "Slugs" have discovered many fans among teachers, children and environmental educators who gravitate toward their style of "edu-tainment."

The mission of the band is to bring the "FUN-damentals" of science and ecology to educators and children with characters like Big Red, Zee Professor, Mr. Dirt and The Nature Man. A typical school visit or workshop will include not only a musical performance, but how to do the *Water Cycle Boogie* and create a rain-storm right in your classroom!

To quote from their mission statement, "We are dedicated to fostering positive attitudes about the environment, providing accurate information about natural history and science, promoting music appreciation, building self-esteem in children, honoring creativity, supporting the arts in education and sparking in people a joyful sense of wonder."

Yahoo for that!

Stay in touch with the Banana Slug String Band at: www.bananaslugstringband.com.
Educators: visit their *Educator Page* for unique ideas for the classroom!

BOOKS FOR THE CLASSROOM

New Spring Titles

The Jungle Comes Alive in New Picture Book



The same author & illustrator team who brought you the multiple award-winning *Over in the Ocean: In a Coral Reef* has done it again with a new eye-popping book!

In *Over in the Jungle: A Rainforest Rhyme*, music, counting, and vibrant art are combined to showcase some of the most compelling animals of the tropical rainforest. Here, ocelots "pounce," monkeys "hoot," and poison dart frogs "hop" in a vivid setting teeming with activity.

Author Marianne Berkes—a former early education teacher, children's librarian,

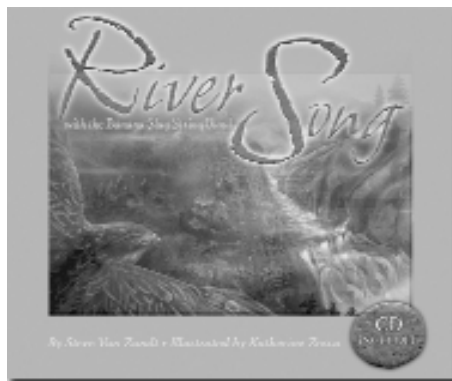
and children's theater director—adapts the whimsical classic song, "Over in the Meadow" to bring both a counting element and a musical element to the rainforest habitat. A "Tips from the Author" page in the back of the book tells teachers and parents how to lead children in body movements that mimic the animals.

Award-winning artist Jeanette Canyon has created another clay masterpiece with the intricate details and vibrancy of the jungle on each page. Each page is meticulously assembled as relief art from polymer clay, and then photographed. The result is almost tactile and brings a remarkable dimensionality to the subject. Jeanette says, "Polymer clay is a wonderful, friendly, pliable and colorful media for both children and adults to work with." ❁



New Book Sings the River's Praises

Rivers make beautiful music, from the trickle of snowmelt to the burble of a full-flowing stream. Through poetry, art, and music from the acclaimed children's musical ensemble, the Banana Slug String Band, *River Song* is a beautiful new picture book that celebrates the diverse nature of a river, from mountain to ocean. The book also introduces the flora and fauna of this habitat, with additional resources in the back of the book.



Author Steve Van Zandt is a founder and lead songwriter for the Banana Slug String Band, as well as an award-winning environmental educator. He is joined by the full band and special guests in a fun-filled rendition of "River Song," which is featured on the attached CD in both paperback and hardback editions.

Katherine Zecca has been a scientific illustrator and graphic artist for 19 years. She has created acclaimed animal illustrations for the Smithsonian Institution, the National Zoo, the American Art Museum, and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). When she isn't illustrating children's books, she also teaches art and nature illustration. ❁

♦ ♦ ♦ AND FOR THE VERY YOUNG

More Simply Nature Board Books!

Now Sharing Nature With Children can start with the very young! Here are three new delightful board books adapted and simplified from our most popular titles!



If You Were My Baby by Fran Hodgkins; illustrated by Laura J. Bryant. Little ones will delight in all of the animal babies in nature, and fall asleep knowing that they, too, are loved and secure.

A Walk in the Rainforest by Kristin Joy Pratt. Take an alphabetical tour of the rainforest with cute XYZ the Ant! Kristin wrote and illustrated this book when she was only 14, and illustrated it with magic markers!

Forest Bright, Forest Night by Jennifer Ward; illustrated by Jamichael Henterly. Young ones can count the sleeping animals of the forest by day and by night, and find the hidden numbers!



Celebrate Earth Day and Win Free Books!

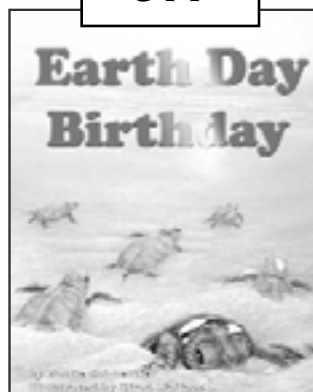
What better way to celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd than to be active with the children in your life? First, you can read and sing along to our one-of-a-kind picture book, *Earth Day Birthday*. Then you can send us your favorite Earth Day activity involving children, K-5!

The back of the book lists a few Earth Day activities and celebration ideas, but we want more! Send us your activity and a team of Dawn educators will choose the top five, most innovative and fun activities to list on our website for the month of April! Plus, each of the five winners will receive twelve free paperback copies of *Earth Day Birthday*!

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT is March 30th, 2007. Send us your Earth Day Activity entry either by mail or by email. Photographs are welcomed! Get creative!

WHERE TO SEND: Dawn Publications, ATTN: EARTH DAY CONTEST, 12402 Bitney Springs Rd., Nevada City, CA 95959. EMAIL: julie@dawnpub.com

**25%
OFF**



AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS “Out & About”

Many of our authors and illustrators visit schools. Here is a quick look at several of them. Call us for information about others, or visit our website at www.dawnpub.com.

Marianne Berkes, author of *Over in the Jungle: A Rainforest Rhyme*, the award-winning *Over in the Ocean: In a Coral Reef* and *Seashells by the Seashore*. She is a former librarian and early childhood educator who loves to share her fun and educational books with children. (772) 223-8934, mberkesbooks@aol.com, www.marianneberkes.com

Jeanette Canyon, illustrator, *Over in the Jungle: A Rainforest Rhyme*, *City Beats: A Hip-Hoppy Pigeon Poem* and *Over in the Ocean: In a Coral Reef*. She makes a full-time career out of creating innovative art for children's books, and sharing the fun, creative process with children. (614) 449-9494, jcanyon@columbus.rr.com

Christopher Canyon, illustrator, *Take Me Home, Country Roads; Ancient Rhymes: A Dolphin Lullaby; Sunshine On My Shoulders; A Tree in the Ancient Forest; Wonderful Nature, Wonderful You; Stickeen*; and the “Earth Trilogy.” He consistently gets rave reviews. (614) 449-9494, ccanyon@columbus.rr.com

Jennifer Ward, author, *Forest Bright, Forest Night*. Besides being an award-winning children's author, she travels the country to present her books at schools and literary conferences. jenward@comcast.net, www.jenniferwardbooks.com

Kristin Joy Pratt-Serafini, young author and illustrator of five Dawn books: *Saguaro Moon: A Desert Journal; Salamander Rain: A Lake and Pond Journal; A Fly in the Sky*, and the best-selling *A Walk in the Rainforest* and *A Swim through the Sea* (now board books). She works full-time doing her craft and travelling to school visits! (314) 776-4601, kristin@xyzant.com, www.xyzant.com

Jennifer Morgan, author, *Mammals Who Morph: The Universe Tells Our Evolution Story; From Lava to Life: The Universe Tells Our Earth Story; and Born With a Bang: The Universe Tells Our Cosmic Story*. She shares her Universe stories at schools and conferences nationwide. JMMorgan@verizon.net, www.UniverseStories.com



DAWN Publications

12402 Bitney Springs Rd.
Nevada City, CA 95959
800-545-7475

Please help us save trees.

If you do not want to receive this newsletter just cut along the line and return to us in a stamped envelope, or call 800-545-7475

Visit our website at www.dawnpub.com

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

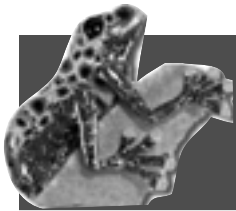


25% OFF Dawn's New Spring Titles*



	<u>Reg.</u>	<u>25% off</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total</u>
Over in the Jungle: A Rainforest Rhyme (paper)	8.95	6.71	_____	_____
Over in the Jungle: A Rainforest Rhyme (hardback)	16.95	12.71	_____	_____
River Song (paper w/CD)	9.95	7.46	_____	_____
River Song (hardback w/CD)	17.95	13.46	_____	_____
A Walk in the Rainforest (board book)	7.95	5.96	_____	_____
Forest Bright, Forest Night (board book)	7.95	5.96	_____	_____
If You Were My Baby (board book)	7.95	5.96	_____	_____
Earth Day Birthday (paper)	8.95	6.71	_____	_____
Earth Day Birthday (hardback)	16.95	12.71	_____	_____

*Offer expires August 1, 2007



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF THESE TITLES OR TO READ REVIEWS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.DAWN.PUB.COM

Subtotal _____

Tax (CA 7.375%) _____

Shipping (see below) _____

TOTAL _____

TO ORDER:

Phone: 800-545-7475

Fax: 530-274-7778

(fax entire page)

Mail: 12402 Bitney Springs Rd.

Nevada City, CA 95959

(mail entire page with your check)

CHARGE MY:

Visa Mastercard

Card # _____

Exp. Date: _____

Telephone _____

Signature (required)

SHIPPING:

Media Mail (up to 15 days)

Up to \$30: \$3.50
 \$30.01 - \$60.00 \$4.00
 \$60.01 - \$75.00 \$4.50
 \$75.01 or more see UPS

UPS (2-8 business days)

Up to \$30: \$6.50
 \$30.01 - \$60.00 \$7.00
 \$60.01 - \$75.00 \$7.50
 \$75.01 or more 9% of total