

All Things Natural



Acadia National Park in Maine.

Photo: Anne Huber, 2008

Jim Brandenburg is a photographer and environmentalist from Minnesota, made famous by 25 years with the National Geographic. His photos of wild wolves and the north woods in Minnesota near his home in the Boundary Waters near Ely continue to haunt us.

Jim grew up in rural Southwestern Minnesota near the town of Luverne. That town now houses one of his galleries. The profits from all sales from this gallery are directed to the Brandenburg Prairie Foundation, which, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has created the Touch the Sky Prairie National Wildlife refuge from 800 acres of virgin grassland one mile from the little farm where he was born. In his book *Looking for the Summer* he states:

Like all things in nature, there really is no beginning or end. A tree, whose life began when a bird dropped a seed, topples to the ground and becomes soil, which awaits another seed so that it can become a tree again. And so my career, which began with a simple plastic camera and an austere prairie landscape, also is circular. The vast sky, grass and the creatures that I clumsily put on film gave birth to my art. My art, now, can give birth back to the prairie.

Making a Place for the Wild Things

It seems to be in the nature of humans to strive to fill the Earth with their kind and mark the Earth with the signs of human activity -- leaving little space for the other inhabitants of this place. From over fishing, polluting the air and water, and destruction of habitat, the effect of human habitation has not been a positive one. Not only are our brother and sister inhabitants of this place harmed, but we are as well. We are plagued by disease and limitations due to our own activities.

In leaving space for the others, and making good efforts to see that they are well cared for, we are placing ourselves in the web of life and taking the responsible position as caretakers of the Garden as the Creator intended.

A necessary aspect of this process is to live consciously, to be aware of the effects of our actions and choices on others -- both human and nonhuman.

In every deliberation we must consider the impact on the seventh generation... even if it requires having skin as thick as the bark of a pine.

- Great Law of the Iroquois

The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the Eyes of others only a Green thing that stands in the way.

*William Blake
The Letters*

Île-du-Marais
Nature Trail
Ste-Catherine-
de-Hatley,
Quebec

Photo:

Anne Huber
2008



New at Sheepish!

*** World of Good Fair Trade Products**



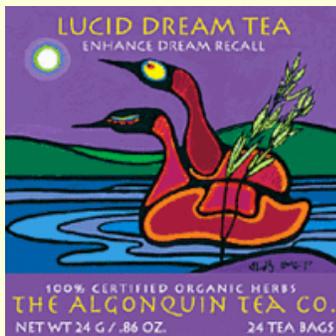
World of Good is a hybrid organization that is made up of World of Good, Inc. and [World of Good Development Organization](#): two halves that work together to create solutions focused on using commerce to alleviate poverty in marginalized artisan communities around the world.

*** Tea from Algonquin Tea**



100% certified organic hand picked indigenous Canadian herbs in a sustainable manner, picking amounts that a deer would graze. Those herbs which are more rare are grown organically using non-mechanical, ecologically integrated and permacultural methods. They choose to harvest each leaf by hand, sustainably, in the wilderness, often by canoe. The pickers often have only one or two hours in a day, if at all, when the plants are oily enough to be harvested - picking only the fresh oily flower tops and leaves. This tea is truly a gourmet product.

Anne and Steve were very impressed when they tried this tea in Quebec in July.



The Algonquin Tea is the third line of Native American Teas available at Sheepish.



l'Étang-Fer-de-Lance in Parc National du Mont-Orford, Quebec

Photo: Anne Huber, 2008

Pipestone

Pipestone (catlinite) is the name for a very fine grained redish argillite (metamorphosed clay) found in veins in pink quartzite at Pipestone in Southwestern Minnesota, 30 miles north of Luverne. The soft stone has been used for centuries by Native Peoples for pipes. The quarries are preserved at Pipestone National Monument. The monument is very beautiful and is worth a visit.

Catlinite is named after George Catlin, an artist who traveled and worked extensively in the American West in the early 1800's. He describes the Lakota legend of the pipe:

At an ancient time the Great Spirit, in the form of a large bird, stood upon the wall of rock and called all the tribes around him. Taking out a piece of the red stone, he formed it into a pipe and smoked it, the smoke rolling over the whole multitude. He then told his red children that this red stone was their flesh, that they were made from it, that they must all smoke to him through it, that they must use it for nothing but pipes: and as it belonged alike to all the tribes, the ground was sacred, and no weapons must be used or brought upon it.

Blue Mounds State Park

(south of Pipestone, Minnesota)

Blue Mounds State Park is a surprising place, with 100 foot red quartzite cliffs (wall of rock) rising from the flat Minnesota prairie. It contain a good-sized Bison herd and a 1250 foot long line of large stones that was built and used by ancient inhabitants of that area to mark the spring and fall equinoxes. It is difficult to date, but it seems to be one of oldest structures in North America and descendants of current Plains Indians do not have legends to describe its purpose or construction. Brandenburg has photographed the line at the equinox, and has many other photos of the park.

Sheepish®

326 Main St
Racine, WI 53403

happypeople@sheepishinracine.com

262-635-3244

or 1-866-907-4337 (toll-free)

online at <http://www.sheepish.us>

a division of Body of Knowledge, Inc