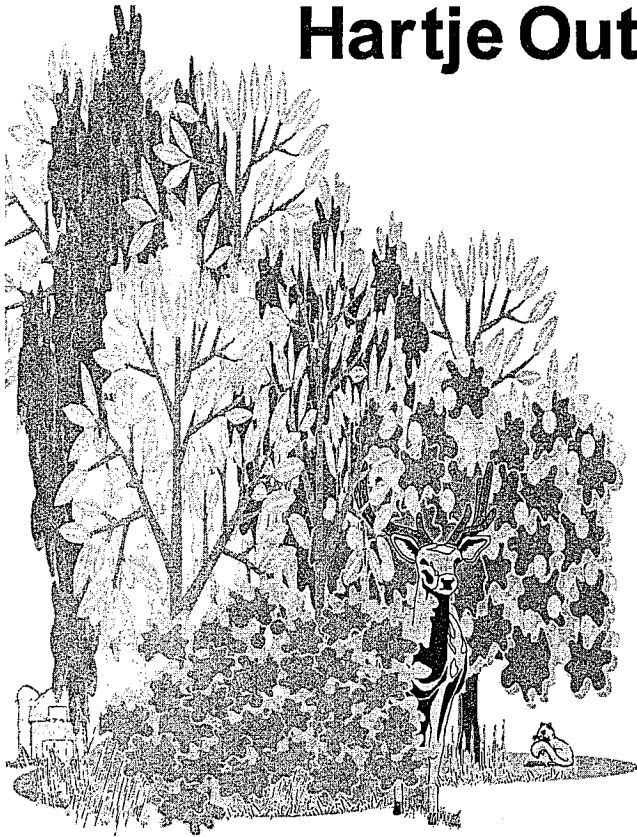
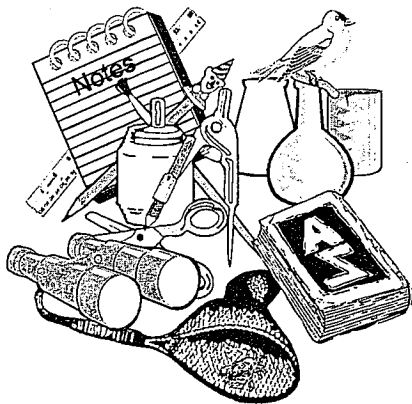
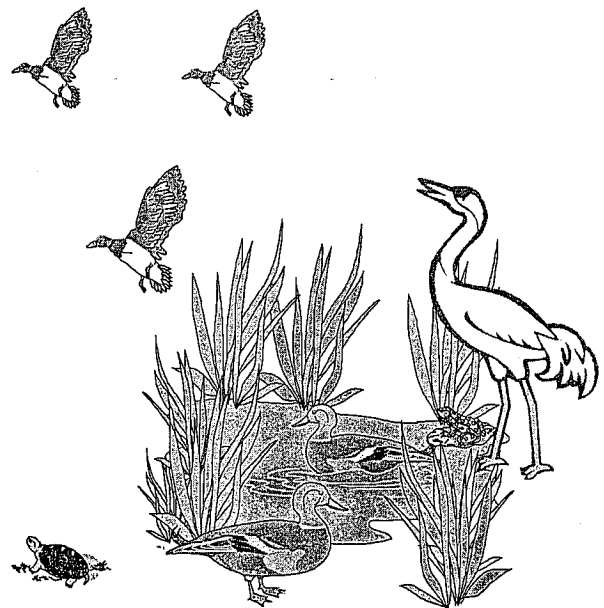


Hartje Outdoor Learning Center



Hartje Outdoor Learning Center, a place to explore nature and learn about our environment in its natural setting. Virgil and Edith Hartje, local business people, gave the district 80 acres in 1986 and in 1996 donated an additional 48 acres, which includes a large wetlands section. The original tract features hardwood forests and a pine plantation. In addition to the donation of land, Mr. Hartje also provided construction materials.

A barn and other buildings on the property were renovated and now function as a classroom, lunch hall and shelter during inclement weather. A smaller classroom-type area can be heated in the winter and another room serves as a museum where animal mounts are displayed. The high school building construction classes have done much of the work to make the buildings usable including glass display cases for mounts. Other projects the construction classes have completed include a trail shelter and an outdoor amphitheater for large group meetings and rest rooms and shelter area on the additional 48 acres.



Teachers have developed a series of learning activities involving disciplines such as science, art, math and English. Specific lessons were written and kits developed containing items for special activities at specific grade levels. Activities range from environmental studies along the miles of prepared trails to water ecology through use of the creek and three small ponds located on the property.