

the BUZZ

BY ANNE CISSEL; ART BY BRIAN WHITE



Scarlett's Superstars

Tree-mendous Achievement

If you've ever walked across a parking lot in the middle of summer, you know it's one of the hottest places you can be. That's because the dark surface soaks up the sun's heat. Cities have a lot of these dark surfaces and not much shade. That means that the temperatures there are higher than in more rural places. And as the Earth's temperature rises because of climate change, cities are going to get even hotter.

But there's a natural solution to this problem: trees! Trees provide shade. The water vapor released from the leaves also cools the air. In Washington state, Alexis Nicholson, 11, and Nirbhuy Arun, 10, are planting trees to help cool their town. They started a group called Kids for Urban Trees. They raised money to buy tree saplings as well as kid-sized shovels and gardening gloves. Then they organized groups of kids to plant more than 300 trees at schools, parks, and in city neighborhoods. Alexis and Nirbhuy won the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes because of their work. Kids and trees: That's a superstar partnership!

HEATHER NICHOLSON

Kids like Alexis and Nirbhuy make a difference for wildlife and the environment. You can, too! Meet other inspiring young heroes at RangerRick.org/superstars.

Do you have a story to share about helping wildlife and

the environment? Email us at buzz@nwf.org. We love hearing everyone's stories, but we are able to feature only a few of them. All submissions become the property of the National Wildlife Federation.



Photographers with Flippers

Oceans cover 70% of the Earth's surface, but what does the seafloor look like? That's a mystery that scientists would love to solve. But it's a challenge: It's dark down there and, in many places, too deep for divers to reach safely. Underwater robots with cameras could do the job, but they are expensive and often hard to use.

That's where Daphne, Phoebe, Iris, and Pasithea come in. Scientists? Nope: four *Australian sea lions* with cameras strapped to their backs. These ocean mammals helped scientists by doing what they do

naturally. They can dive down as far as 600 feet, which is twice as deep as the Statue of Liberty is tall!

These animal photographers came back with amazing footage of the seafloor off Australia's southern coast. One also videoed a mother sea lion teaching her pup how to find food in the ocean—something that had never been seen before. All this new information will help scientists understand this ocean ecosystem and discover new ways to protect it. And all because of animals and humans working together!

Tiger Love

In the wilderness of the Russian Far East, wildlife rescuers discovered two orphaned *Amur tigers*. The young tigers weren't related, but they were raised together in captivity. Rescuers named them Boris and Svetlana and tried to keep them as wild as possible.

When they were 18 months old, the cats were released back into the wild, but very far apart from each other. Rescuers hoped that Boris and Svetlana would then find mates and start separate families. Tigers are endangered, and people are working hard to bring them back to this part of the world.

Since the cats had tracking devices on



them, scientists were able to see that Boris didn't stay put. Instead, he walked more than 100 miles, right to Svetlana—almost in a straight line! How did he find her? No one knows, but we do know that, six months later, Svetlana had a litter of tiger cubs. What a cute cat tale!