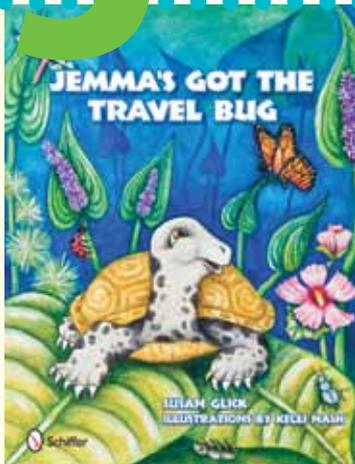


# goodstuff

By Karen Kullgren



## A Terp with the Travel Bug

When a young diamondback terrapin leaves her quiet cove and ventures into the open waters of the Chesapeake Bay, she faces hazards like scary boat propellers and crab pots. Local mom (and University of Maryland alum) Susan Glick wants kids to read her picture book *Jemma's Got the Travel Bug* and then "care about this turtle and want to protect it." The book has a section in back where readers can learn more about the habitat, lifestyle and environmental threats to the diamondback. Beautifully illustrating the story are watercolors from Kelli Nash.

## Bugging Out

Free outdoor concerts are one of summer's great pleasures. Mister G, who has a new CD, *Bugs*, is making several appearances, including two concerts in Gaithersburg June 29 and 30 and a July 7 show at the Summerfest Family Theater in Frederick. Songs like "Sneaky Chihuahua," "Pizza for Breakfast," "Shark in the Bathtub" and "Pam the Pug" will give kids the giggles and won't drive parents gaga. Mister G is Ben Gundersheimer, who spent 20 years as a rock frontman and solo artist before moving into family music. [mistersongs.com](http://mistersongs.com)



## Animal Avatars



National Geographic Animal Jam is a creative virtual discovery zone for kids to explore the natural world. Players ages 5 to 11 can transform themselves into their favorite animals as they journey through the many lands of Jamaica. Along the way, they chat with friends, learn about science and nature, win gems they can use to personalize their animal avatars and

decorate their animal dens, and play games. Kids can also create their own content, such as contributing artwork that could be featured in the biweekly publication, *Jamaa Journal*. [animaljam.com](http://animaljam.com)



## "Have Kids, Still Travel"

Planning your summer getaway can be stressful, and Family Travel Forum can help. For more than a decade, they've been providing unbiased, in-depth reviews and information on everything from water parks to white-water rafting, cruises to family reunions, dude ranches to five-star resorts, mountains to off-the-map destinations. Founded by travel professionals, FTF offers age-specific travel tips and ideas, details on accommodations, great travel deals, travel planning, online discussion forums and much more. They've recently released their top 10 list of the best national parks for families. [myfamilytravels.com](http://myfamilytravels.com)

## An App for Seeing the City

Natives and tourists alike will find DC with Kids, FamilyTrips a handy tool, with features including Top Attractions, Plan Ahead, By Ages, Special Tips, Fun Facts, Play Outdoors, Eat, Shop, Free, Side Trips and Maps. The app—90 MB, with 500 entries and hundreds of colorful photos, maps and illustrations—is the brainchild of prolific family travel author, Candyce Stapen. Discover great attractions, plan special experiences like museum sleepovers, scout out festivals and create a personalized itinerary for your family. Compatible with iPhone, iPod and iPad. [familyitrips.com](http://familyitrips.com)



## Kids Bowl Free

When you need a break from the summer heat, what's more fun than hitting the lanes in an air-conditioned bowling alley? Especially when it's free?! Kids Bowl Free is back for 2011. More than 850 bowling centers coast to coast participate and let kids have two free games of bowling every day all summer. Register online, and you'll begin receiving emailed vouchers for your local center every Sunday morning. [kidsbowlfree.com](http://kidsbowlfree.com)

