



**PRAIRIE WOODS
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER**

12718 10th St. NE
Spicer MN 56288
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www.prairiewoodselc.org
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PRAIRIE WOODS *Warbler*
www.prairiewoodselc.org 320-354-5894
pwelc@co.kandiyohi.mn.us Spicer, Minnesota

WHY BE A MEMBER?

- ◆ Know you are supporting programs you believe in at an organization that is important to your community.
- ◆ Receive information and invitations to special events at Prairie Woods.
- ◆ Benefit from discounts on equipment rentals and programs.
- ◆ Continue to receive the *Warbler* newsletter three times a year.

*Thank you for
your support.*

Join Us!
PRAIRIE WOODS ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER
Annual Membership for 2017

- ☐ New Member
☐ Renewing Member

SUPPORTER'S MEMBERSHIP

- ☐ Individual Membership \$30.00
☐ Family Membership \$45.00
☐ Donation of _____ amount to the Sustainability Endowment
☐ I / we are interested in volunteering at Prairie Woods.

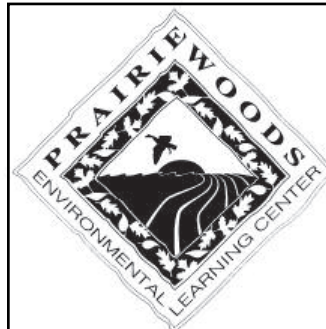
Name(s) _____
Address _____
City/State/ZIP _____
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Please enclose payment to Prairie Woods ELC, and send to:

Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center
12718 10th Street NE
Spicer, Minnesota 56288

Questions or comments? Please call us at 320-354-5894 or e-mail us at pwelc@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

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PRAIRIE WOODS

Warbler



VOLUME 30

SPRING 2017

ISSUE 1

BOARD MEMBERS 2017

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Program Facilitator
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Shelli-Kae Foster
YES! Grant Project Leader
Danny Kulset,
Building & Grounds
Ali Dahmes,
YES! Coordinator

BERNICKS HELPS TO LAUNCH YELLOW BOATS PROJECT!

We were delighted to receive a \$13,500 grant from the Bernick's Beverages and Vending Fund of the Central Minnesota Community Foundation for the purchase of 20 kayaks. Look for the fleet of 10' and 12' brightly colored sit-upon kayaks to appear at lakes, rivers and ponds throughout the growing PWELC service area. The sit-upon kayaks are easy for novice paddlers to maneuver and will help us to introduce thousands of people to safe paddling and enjoyment of water sports for years to come.

PAVILION UPDATE

Last fall, Kandiyohi County Public Works completed site preparation for the pavilion. In early March, materials began to arrive at the farm site and once again the excitement was building at Prairie Woods. An all-star crew from Great River Energy made quick work of augering holes for the main posts and then the sub-contractors for Carlson Construction set-about the task of pouring footings and setting posts. We are really excited to have the pavilion completed in time to support the rush of school field trips this spring. Stay tuned for details on a party in the pavilion.



Thanks Great River Energy for donating time and equipment to drill the holes and prepare the site for the poles. Left-Brian Wolff, Right-Kevin Hodgson

HATS OFF TO WILLMAR AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND THE NEW LONDON SPICER AREA FUND!!

The Willmar Area Community Foundation has been a tremendous supporter of PWELC for two decades and we can't say thank you loud enough. Projects funded by WACF over the years include the indoor climbing



wall, yurt, wetland walkway, environmental education and outdoor recreation equipment, vehicles, the portable climbing wall and most recently a \$30,000 grant for the Pavilion project. The New London Spicer Area Fund of the Willmar Area Community Foundation has recently made grants to PWELC for \$1,000 to help

purchase our "new" truck and \$5000 toward the Pavilion project. We are extremely grateful for the support of WACF and NLSAF. A big thanks to all of you who help to support the work of WACF and NLSAF.

SAVE the Date(s)

EARTH Day and the Recycled Outdoor Gear SaleSaturday, April 22nd 8am-1pm
YES! Statewide Awards at Target Field- Twins GameSunday, May 21, 2017
Party in the Pavilion.....Saturday, July 1
Paddle the CROW!Saturday, June 3, 2017 9am-noon
Music Under the Prairie StarsFriday, September 8, 2017



*Notes from the Executive Director*

by Dave Pederson, Executive Director

Spring is here and things are hopping at Prairie Woods! Pavilion construction, the Yellow Boats Project, Wright and Stearns County Parks project, a spring calendar jam packed with school groups, a resurging interest in climbing gym and quarry climbs, Earth Day & Recycled Outdoor Gear Sale, and the first ever statewide YES! Co-opetition culminating with an award ceremony at Target Field on May 21st. All this combined with the excitement of the world waking up after winter. Lots of good things happening!

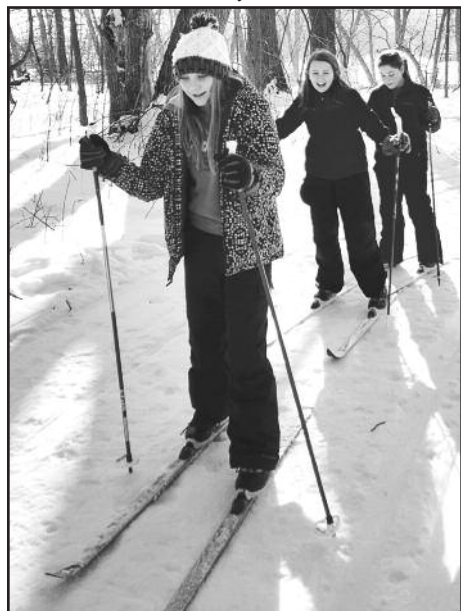
With your help, Prairie Woods continues to grow and prosper. Our work is important. Our work is fun (Serious Fun!). In a time where the only certainty seems to be uncertainty, we are working to engage the next generation of stewards in understanding, caring for and enjoying the natural world.

Please enjoy catching up on the news from Prairie Woods, feel welcome to join us, and please support our work as a volunteer and contributor. We need you!

Thanks for all that you do for Prairie Woods!

Dave**WRIGHT AND STEARNS COUNTY PARKS PROJECT GAINING MOMENTUM.**

As reported in the winter Warbler, PWELC has entered a contract to provide 30 outdoor recreation and environmental education programs in Wright and Stearns Counties over the next two years. We started off the winter with a very successful Schools in the Parks pilot project. Seven schools were able to participate in environmental ed. and outdoor rec. programs held at Robert Ney Nature Preserve, Warner Lake County Park, Rockville County Park and Quarry Park.



Maple Lake 6th graders at Robert E. Ney Park
in Wright County

Both Wright and Stearns County have developed some wonderful park spaces including the 1200 acre Bertram Chain of Lakes Park near Monticello and Quarry Park in Waite Park. We are really excited to work with the park staff to get people of all ages out into the parks and the great outdoors.

Be sure to check out the PWELC Facebook page for upcoming events in Wright and Stearns County. Some of the programs coming up include rock climbing in Quarry Park, voyageur canoe and kayak programs at Bertram Chain of Lakes Park, and two large summer kick-off events scheduled for Warner Lake County Park (June 16th) and Bertram Chain of Lakes County Park (June 17th).

This project is made possible through a grant obtained by Wright and Stearns Counties from the Greater MN Parks and Trails Commission with funds provided from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.



The PWELC community was saddened by the passing of board member Richard “Dick” Larson in February. Richard was a long time proponent for Prairie Woods during his time as a Kandiyohi County Commissioner and remained active on the PWELC governing board and executive finance committee until the time of his death. We will miss Richard’s wry sense of humor, can-do attitude and fair-minded approach to problem solving. He provided a great example of living a long full life of service to his community.

**“YOU JUST CAN’T SAY NO TO YES!”**

-Ali Dahmes YES! Unit Coordinator

YES! teams are getting close to finishing up their projects as the school year wraps up. Local teams’ projects include: food production in on-site greenhouses, building a dock for an outdoor education area, installing a tree trench to naturally filter polluted rain water, retrofitting a school parking lot with LED light bulbs, and continually reducing waste with recycling and hydration station maintenance. Throughout this season, YES! students have attended workshops on local foods, waste reduction, and solar/wind energy.

West Central Winter Workshops – The first workshop was held at Prairie Woods ELC where students from ACGC, YME, and Alexandria Discovery schools spent the day learning about waste reduction and recycling. The day kicked off with a tour of the Willmar Household Hazardous Waste and Willmar Recycling Facilities. At each center the students saw how the products arrived, were handled, packaged and shipped. They also heard from an Organics Waste Specialist focusing on preventing food waste. Climate



Generation staff spoke about how recycling is only one in many ways to help mitigate climate change. This workshop ended at the Kandiyohi County Solid Waste Sanitary Landfill where they learned about a state of the art leachate treatment system - the only one of its kind in the entire US. This system takes black oil looking leachate waste, treats it, and the end product turns into water so clean that you could drink it!

NLS and ACGC students attended a horticulture workshop. NLS gave a tour of their bulk milk dispensers (past YES! project) and their deep winter green house. Students even harvested their own lettuce that they ate for lunch! We heard from U of M horticulturist, Steven Poppe, about the research on over wintering cover crops and low tunnel strawberries. They also heard from Dana Anderson, the CEO of Living Greens Farm about vertical aeroponics. The day ended with students building and keeping their own aeroponic system for the classroom!

The last workshop focused on the power of nature; solar and wind energy. Tim Parsons with Terwisscha Construction spoke to the students about building sustainably, eco-friendly products, LEED certification, and passive versus active energy reduction strategies. Jeron Smith, an electrical engineer at Willmar Municipal Utilities, then spoke about how wind turbines operate. Workshop attendees toured the two turbines in Willmar, MN which left everyone in awe. Students finished the day at Kandiyohi Power Coop learning how solar panels operate and about the community “leasing” solar program KPC offers its members. No matter what workshop they attended, students left energized, informed and with amazing project ideas and plans to get them started!

First YES! State Wide Competition Award Ceremony scheduled at Target Field!

The Youth Energy Summit (YES!) is excited to announce the first ever state-wide competition. Each of the four top regional winners will compete this year for the YES! State Championship title. The recipient will receive their award at the **Minnesota Twins game on Sunday, May 21st at 1:00pm**. We invite all PWELC/YES! fans and friends to join us at the game and congratulate the first YES! State Champion. Please contact ali@youthenergysummit.org for more information regarding reduced priced Twins tickets for the event.

Major funding for YES! has been provided by the MN Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources. Other major contributors include Southwest Initiative Foundation and the McKnight Foundation.





Time Travel - Mari Klebe

Through the eyes of a second grader...

"Field trip day!!! Hop on the bus – This bus ride is so long. Where are we going? We're driving on a dirt road? This road is soooo long!"

"What's that old shack? You want me to wear those funny looking clothes? People wore hats like that all the time? What's an apron for?"

"We get to go in the cabin?! People actually lived here? What's that? (coffee grinder) what's that? (butter churn) what's that? (carding brushes) what's that? (cider press) what's that? (wood burning stove) what's that? (wash board & wash tub)"

"We get to do that & use those?! Yes! Grind coffee, card wool, dance to fiddle & banjo, do laundry, beat rugs, dip candles, saw wood, churn ice cream, potato sack race, make a buzz saw..."

It's fulfilling to watch the amazement and excitement of the students as they become pioneers for the day. Many don't want to return back to the 21st century. If you know someone that would like to be a pioneer for a day sign them up for Pioneer Day on Aug. 16th from 9am-4pm. They'll even make their own pioneer lunch. More information on the Community Ed. Page.



EARTH DAY & RECYCLED OUTDOOR GEAR

SALE- Sat. April 22nd 8am-1pm

Join us for a **pancake and sausage breakfast** from 8am-10am.

Presentation by the Minnesota ZooMobile at 10:30am.

Panel discussion on Ag Water Quality Certification at 9a.m. Exhibits and kid activities from 8am-1pm.

Be sure to bring your wallet and pick up some great deals at the **Recycled Outdoor Gear Sale**.

Your tax-deductible donations of equipment for the gear sale are accepted up until the day of the sale. Call us if you have items you wish to donate for the sale. We can assist with picking up items.

THE 2017 TOMMY SWENSON MEMORIAL ICE FISHING TOURNAMENT RAISED \$2500 FOR YOUTH SPORTING PROGRAMS AT PRAIRIE WOODS.

Each year for the last four years the family and friends of Tommy Swenson have held an ice fishing tournament on Green Lake and raised funds to support youth sporting programs in honor of Tommy's love for the great outdoors. We are honored to receive support from the Tommy Swenson Memorial Ice Fishing Tournament. This year the family has directed \$1000 of the proceeds to the pavilion project.

Be sure to check out the Tommy Swenson Memorial Ice Fishing Tournament in the first week of February 2018.

NEEDS AND GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:

- * Donate gently-used outdoor gear for the **Recycled Outdoor Gear Sale**
- * We still need approximately \$10,000 to **close out our fundraising for the Pavilion**. Gifts in any amount are needed and welcome!!
- * **Pavilion-warming gifts:** round tables (\$100 each) 30 needed; Rectangular tables (\$100 each) 8 needed; Folding chairs (\$25 each) 250 needed
- * We always welcome donations of shoes in good condition for our **WorldWear Project**.
- * **Join the planning committee** for the **first Prairie Stars event in the new pavilion!**
- * Help with **landscaping** around the new pavilion.

Prairie Woods- A Natural Choice for Weddings, Reception, Family Reunions, and Corporate Retreats.



High Notes from the Challenge Course - Steve Friedlein, CC Coordinator



Throughout this past winter, PWELC has had the privilege of hosting Challenge Course groups at our Indoor Rock Climbing Wall as well as leading Teambuilding Initiatives inside our facilities. The Indoor Rock Climbing Gym offers the perfect activity for a cold winter day. This space allows PWELC to facilitate Challenge Course Programming year round. We've done programs with schools, corporate groups, community education, birthday parties, families and groups of friends. While every group may be different, the goals and accomplishments are universal. Whether it's learning how to communicate better as a team or push yourself higher up a climb, the Challenge Course brings feelings into the present. Participants' experiences are real. Real in the moment and real in life after. As a parent, I know the joy it brings me to see my son experience life. I see that same passion as family members, teachers, and friends witness those close to them try their best.

As winter ends, I can feel the warm energy of what's to come. Here at PWELC, everything seems to accelerate as the temperatures increase. Thousands of youth and adults are planning their spring field trips to PWELC. I'm honored to be a



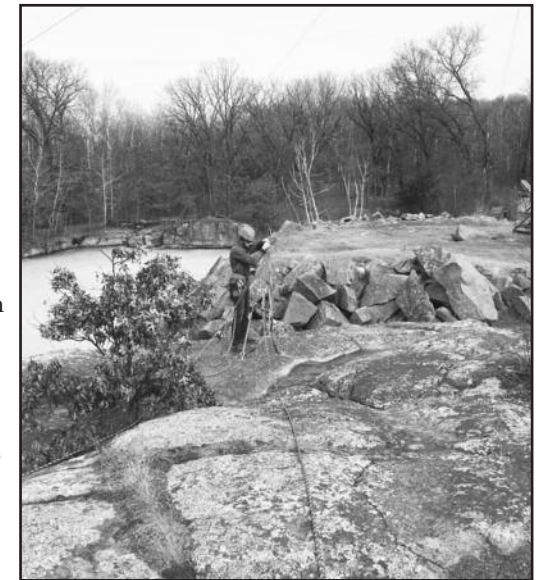
part of their experience. I vividly remember my time in grade school feeling so excited about going on a field trip to the Outdoor Learning Center. It was my only field trip of the year and it meant everything to me. I still hold that feeling close as I facilitate our programs here at PWELC. Every program, and each participant, is unique and important.

This summer, Prairie Woods ELC is offering Intro to Rock Climbing at Quarry Park in Stearns County. Participants will get to climb routes on a granite rock face in the designated climbing area at Quarry Park. The PWELC staff will provide the equipment and facilitation. Adult climbing sessions will take place on Wednesday, June 28th and Wednesday, August 30th 2017 from 5:00pm – 7:00pm. There will be a Youth / Family climbing session on July 26th 2017 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm.

To register for these programs, contact the Quarry Park Office: (email) parkinfo@stearns.mn.us or (call) 320-255-6172. The Prairie Woods Pinnacle will also visit Quarry Park on Saturday, July 22nd 2017 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm for an open climb.

Please feel free to contact me anytime about scheduling a future program.

Your adventure's waiting! Steve



NICE THINGS DONE FOR PRAIRIE WOODS BY PEOPLE LIKE YOU!

Bruce Berghuis donated a nifty little sailboat and other watersports items for the Gear Sale.

Several anonymous donors dropped off some very nice xc skis and poles.

Dr. Dave Newcomer donated a cedar strip canoe for the Gear Sale.

Boy Scout Troop 246 removed sumac and invasive species from the prairie.

Scott Glup continued to work on prairie restoration.

Ron & Dee Erpelding, Roger & Kay Strand, Sam & Sandra Nelson, Joel & Cathy Halbritter and

Lee & Betty Olson made contributions to the PWELC Sustainability Endowment Fund.

Michelle Steffen made a new pair of "Once-ler gloves" for the Lorax puppet show.

Gary Kulset made a contribution towards a kayak trailer for the Yellow Boats project.

Spicer Fire Department donated old, retired hose to be used at outdoor climbing programs.

Luke Geiger and Redstar Creative once again designed our Earth Day poster.

Kandiyohi County Community Services built and donated several wooden recycling bins to preplace our old plastic recycling containers.

Anderson, Larson sponsored community spotlight on 106.5 The Train the month of January.

We were honored to receive Memorial gifts from the families and friends of:

Doug Mossberg, Dale Heveron, Richard Larson and Max Barry



*Home On The Range* - Kory Klebe

Spring has sprung. With another weird winter behind us there are a lot of people that are itching, trigger finger and all, to get outside and enjoy the great outdoors. There are several opportunities to do just that at PWELC's

Gary Westby Educational Shooting Range.

- Spring Sporting Clay leagues starting in April.
- MDHA Forkhorn I Camp (firearm safety) July 9th-13th
- MDHA Forkhorn II Camp (Bow safety) July 16th-20th
- Youth 3D Archery shoot July 21st.
- Tommy Swenson Youth sporting clay night July 25th
- Pheasants Forever Youth sporting clay and .22 event August 12th

*Sign up for one (or all) of these events or call to set up a range date for your own group.

*EE Notes* - Kory Klebe

As I look back at the newsletter from last spring I notice that I am having some of the same thoughts this year. It is a challenge to do winter programs without winter. Just like 2016, we had a fantastic but very, very, very short ski season. (The exception was the MLK holiday weekend where we rented more skis and snowshoes in 3 days than we have in the last 3 years.) In fact this year schools had to replace skiing and snowshoe classes with other programs such as "The Lorax" puppet show, compass 101, or even a new recreation invention "bowling snow golf."



Despite the general lack of snow the kids were enthusiastic and enjoyed exploring nature.

We actually had great ski conditions for our first Wright and Stearns County Parks outreach program with Maple Lake 6th graders at Robert Ney Nature Preserve, and were able to snowshoe with kids from Richmond Elementary at Warner Lake County Park. Highlights for kids were

finding vole trails and examining various skeletal remains as they emerged from the snow.

This winter, we welcomed Kelsey Olson, MN DNR Naturalist from Sibley State Park who assisted with some programs as part of a new memorandum of agreement between Sibley State Park and PWELC to exchange staff and program resources. Thanks Kelsey! Thanks Minnesota DNR and Sibley State Park!

The Lorax

During our 2016 Earth Day Celebration we debuted a puppet show adapted from Dr. Seuss's "The Lorax." Since that presentation this show has been performed for an additional 350 students. This spring and summer we will be taking the "Lorax" on the road. The 1st outing will be with AIM in Willmar. The "Lorax's" next two road trips are a little bit further away but open to the public.

- June 16th Warner Lake County Park in Stearns County.
- June 17th Bertram Chain on Lakes County Park in Wright County.

Come join us for one of these presentations or have the "Lorax" visit your school, church, or special event.

Please remember Prairie Woods in your estate planning and annual giving.



PWELC COMMUNITY EDUCATION OFFERINGS

SUMMER 2017

PADDLE THE CROW.....ALL AGES

Come with Prairie Woods ELC and the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District to "Paddle the Crow." This will be a 3 hour river trip down the Middle Fork of the Crow River. We will paddle 17 foot canoes in addition to PWELC's 34 foot Voyageur Canoe (perfect for novices and families with young children). The trip will start at the boat access/fishing pier parking lot on the New London Mill Pond. From there we will be shuttled to "Dilly" Bridge north of New London and paddle back to the Mill Pond. Lunch afterward will be provided by the Middle Fork Crow Watershed District.).

All equipment will be provided.

Date: Saturday, June 3rd • Time: 9:00-12:00

Cost: \$7/person and \$20/family

PWELC SAMPLER.....Grades: 1st and up

Come experience what Prairie Woods ELC has to offer. We will visit the Pioneer Cabin to see how people lived "back in the day", do the Flying Squirrel, Climb the wall, track some animals, and learn some outdoor survival skills.

Bring a sack lunch. (meet at main building)

Date: Tuesday, June 6th • Time: 8:00-4:00

Cost: \$20

NATURE DAYS.....Grades: K-3

WHAT'S THAT???? Let's check it out! For three mornings we will explore the natural world in which we live. We will use hands-on activities and games to better understand the forest, prairie, and the wetlands at Prairie Woods. (meet at main building)

Date: Tues-Thurs, June 13,14,15 • Time: 8:30am-11:30am

Cost: \$55

GAME DAY AT THE PIONEER CABIN.....Grades: 3rd-6th

Who's up for some friendly competition? After dressing as a pioneer, unplug for a morning of blind man's bluff, a three legged race, a game of graces (hoops & sticks), kubb, and many more pioneer games. If it's raining out we'll see how you do at jacks, pick up sticks, and card games. (meet at farmsite)

Date: Wednesday, June 28 • Time: 10 am – 12 pm

Cost: \$8

3D DEER ARCHERY SHOOT.....Grades: 5th and up

If you have a couple archery seasons under your belt or are thinking about hunting deer with a bow and arrow for the first time---This class is for you. This class is a chance to add new or develop existing deer hunting

archery skills. We will talk about shooting form, judging distance, ethical shooting, and tracking deer. Then we will go out and practice the skills on some 3D deer targets. (meet at farmsite)

Date: Fri, July 21st

Time: 9-12

Cost: \$15

**Youth Shotgun Sporting Clays.....Ages: 12-18**

Sponsored by Tommy Swenson Memorial Ice Fishing Tournament.

Did you know that Prairie Woods ELC has a Sporting Clay Shotgun Range? The clays come from the left, right, straight at you, from behind you, there is even one that rolls on the ground. You may bring your own (12 or 20ga) shotgun or borrow one of ours. There will be two ranges set up. One for 1st time shooter in addition to our regular sporting clay range. Program cost greatly reduced due to contribution from the Tommy Swenson Memorial Ice Fishing Tournament. (meet at Westby shooting range)

Date: Tuesday, July 25th

Time: 6:00-6:45, 6:45-7:30, 7:30-8:15, 8:15-9:00 • Cost: \$5

PIONEER SKILLS:.....Grades: 3rd – 6th Grade

Do you have what it takes to live as a pioneer? Test your knowledge while participating in our version of "Oregon Trail". Brush up or develop your compass skills. Try your hand at the cross cut saw and buck saw. If time allows, you might go home with a craft as well. (meet at farmsite)

Date: Thursday, Aug. 3 • Time: 9 am – 12 pm

Cost: \$15/session

FULL MOON CANOE:.....Grades: 5th and up

Come with your friends or family to enjoy the solitude of a Prairie Woods wetland while watching the sun set and the moon rise all in the same evening. Canoe, paddles, life jackets and instruction provided by Prairie Woods ELC. Children must be accompanied by an adult. (meet at farmsite)

Date: Monday, August 7th • Time: 7:00p-9:00p

Cost: \$7 per person.

YOUTH SPORTING CLAY AND .22 SHOOT SPONSORED BY PHEASANTS FOREVER....AGES 11-16

This is a great opportunity to shoot for the 1st time OR to improve your already existing shooting skills. Included in the class will be instruction on safe gun handling and shooting technique. Firearms, shells, and targets will be provided. You may bring your own 12 or 20ga shotgun. All levels of shooters are invited. (Meet at Westby Shooting range)

Date: Saturday, August 12th

Time: 3:00-5:00 with Hotdog dinner to follow program.

Cost: \$5

PIONEER DAY.....GRADES: 3rd – 6th

Help Anna Danielson get ready for fall. Find out what pioneer life was really like with this ALL day adventure. We'll start the day by dressing as a pioneer. Then we'll get busy with our indoor chores which will include preparing our own pioneer lunch. Followed by some outdoor activities such as doing laundry, cutting wood & beating rugs. After chores we should find time to play a few games, make a craft & maybe even end with a sweet treat of homemade ice cream! (meet at farmsite)

Date: Wednesday, Aug. 16 • Time: 9 am – 4 pm

Cost: \$35 (includes lunch)

INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING GYM.....ALL AGES

Climbing offers a chance to challenge yourself both physically and mentally at your own pace. Rock Climbing is a true adventure sport. Beginners can learn about the sport, exercise and have fun! Experienced climbers can come train and refine their skills. The Prairie Woods ELC instructors are here to help every climber reach new heights! Equipment will be provided. Sign up for one or more. (meet at the main building.)

4:00pm – 5:30pm • \$10 per session

Thursday, June 22nd 2017 • Thursday, July 6th 2017

Thursday, August 24th 2017



APRIL 22ND 2017 8AM -10- 1PM

Prairie Woods
Environmental Learning Center

12718 10th St NE, Spicer
320.354.5894
prairiewoodselc.org

SCHEDULE:

- 8a - 10a • Pancake Breakfast (free-will)
- 8a - 1p • Recycled Outdoor Gear Sale
Activities & Exhibits
- 9a • Ag Water Quality Presentation & Panel
- 10a - 1p • Sloppy Joes for sale
- 10:30a • MN Zoomobile

RECYCLED OUTDOOR GEAR SALE

Gear donations welcome until day of sale.

WE WANT YOUR SHOES : WORLDWEAR PROJECT

Bring gently worn shoes to Earth Day as fundraiser for PWELC

FREE NITRATE TESTING

Bring a small sample of water in a clean glass jar & MN Soil & Water District or MPCA will test the nitrate levels.

ATTRACTIONS FOR KIDS & ADULTS:

Free Trees • Best Management Practices • Water Quality Information • Hands on Educational Activities • Photo Booth • DNR Laser Shot
Watershed Health • Birding • Climbing Wall • Nitrate Testing • Arts & Crafts • Practice Casting • DNR Fish Tank • More

EVENT ORGANIZERS:



EVENT SPONSORS: Cash Wise • Cub Foods • Jennie-O • MN Dairy Association • MN Pork Producers • Redstar Creative



4TH ANNUAL SLEIGH & SKI FEST A SUCCESS DESPITE BROWN GROUND.

Owing to brown ground and a non-winter, numbers were down somewhat for the 4th Annual Sleigh and Ski Fest, but those who showed up had a great time! Vickie Vogt reported that 325 people enjoyed the chili feed. The Cedar Creek Band provided live music. Over 25 exhibitors shared winter crafts, sports and hobbies. The National Honor Society from New London-Spicer H.S. once again provided able volunteers to assist with the chili feed, parking, and children's activities. The indoor climbing wall, always a hit, was busy throughout the day.

The Sleigh & Ski Fest was the brainchild of Fred and Joy Zwart. The 2017 sleigh fest was dedicated to Fred who passed away this winter. The event this year was tinged with sadness but also a great feeling of gratitude for all that Fred did to establish the Sleigh & Ski Fest. Big thanks to Gary Stai, Kenny Wetzel and Joy Zwart for stepping up to help organize the event this year.

A special thanks to the folks who provided teams and horse drawn wagons: Joy Zwart, Kenny Wetzel, Gary & Kathy Stai, Dale & Grace Fladeboe (sound truck and announcing), Pat & Gwen Hood, Henry Haglund, Norman Rearing, Tony Loughlin, Stan Glimsdal. The horses, and their handlers, are always impressive and a big hit with folks of all ages.

We also need to give special thanks to **Vickie Vogt, Danny Leite, Ida Leite, Vicky Thompson and daughter Shannon**, for another great job of orchestrating the chili feed. And the many sponsors and volunteers who contributed to the event:

Jennie-O Turkey Store and 1st District Association for supplying meat and cheese for the chili feed.

Tom Gustafson and the Cedar Creek Band, Tom Bahr & Custom Signs,

NL-S National Honor Society: parking, chili feed servers, activities

Exhibitors: Master Gardeners, Joe Bee Honey, Jack Woodhall III- fly-tying, Kylene Olsen -snowshoe lacing, Mike Bundy & Todd Marxhausen-home brew, Brian Gieseke -Pheasants Forever & PWELC Accessible

Hunt, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Little Crow Photography Club,

Kandiyohi County Historical Society, Phil Scheevel- woodcarving, Animal Humane Society, Little Crow 4H, Steve Erickson-

archaeology exhibit, Willmar Community Ed & Rec., Tommy Swenson Memorial Ice Fishing Tournament, Dick Doll- Purple Martin

Project, MPCA salt exhibit, Willmar Lakes Area Convention and Visitor Bureau photo booth, Middle Fork Crow River Watershed

District, and Kandiyohi County Recycling.



Join us for our Grand Opening –

Open House on Saturday, July 1!!

Stay tuned to Facebook, our Website, or attend Earth Day
for more details!!!

**Party
in the
Pavilion!**