PRAIRIE WOODS

ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

12718 10th St. NE Spicer MN 56288 1-320-354-5894

www.prairiewoodselc.org pwelc@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

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PRAIRIE WOODS Warbler

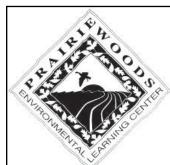
www.prairiewoodselc.org 320-354-5894
Spicer, Minnesota

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 2018
n 	□ New Member □ Renewing Member
	SUPPORTER'S MEMBERSHIP Individual Membership
ĺ	\square I / we are interested in volunteering at Prairie Woods.
	Name(s)
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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



ISSUE 2

VOLUME 32 FALL 2018

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Shelli-Kae Foster
YES! Grant Project Leader
Kathy Hoganson,
Building & Grounds
Ali Dahmes,
YES! Coordinator

WE DELIVER! PWELC OUTREACH IS BOOMING

In the past several years PWELC has seen an explosion in requests for outreach programs and we are happy to deliver! The YES! program, Big Canoe, Mobile Climbing Wall, Enviro-puppet theatre, the Wright and Stearns County Parks Project and, most recently, the Yellow Boats Project have helped us to reach many thousands of people who would likely never make it to our campus. We are enjoying meeting people where they live. Paddling trips on the Sauk River, Crow River, and Mississippi along with rock climbing at Quarry Park in St. Cloud, Yellow Boats pop-ups, and school programs in the parks throughout Wright and Stearns Counties has challenged our staff to elevate their game and they have excelled. Dream it! Do it! We deliver! Give us a call to schedule an adventure learning delivery to your community.



34 Voyager Canoe - 18 paddling spots



Lorax Puppet Show & Discussion



Conquering the Pinnacle.



Water Days Paddle

Upcoming	g Events
Music Under the Prairie Stars 2018	Friday, September 7, 2018
Annual PWELC Membership Meeting & Potluck	Monday, 5:30pm October 15, 2018 (please RSVP)
YES! Fall Summit	Wednesday, October 3, 2018
Halloween Haunt	Friday, October 26, 2018

















- $\bullet \ \ 1st \ Place \ Award \ Recipient Sartell \ YES! \ Team$
 - o Project Creating an educational waste reduction website
- 2nd Place Award Recipient (tie) Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City YES!
 - o Project Installing energy efficient hand dryers
- 2nd Place Award Recipient (tie) ROCORIYES! Team
 - o Project School wide recycling every Friday
- Wow Factor Award Recipient New London Spicer High School YES! Team
 - o Project Planning a community climate convening for Earth Day at PWELC

Following Spring Awards, the four regional 1st Place Award Recipients were entered into the State Competition. The Second

Annual State Competition Award Ceremony was held at Target Field on May 20th, 2018. This event was attended by over 120YES! students, coaches, staff, and supporters from 3Youth Eco Solutions (YES!) teams. Teams represented the following communities; Northern Lights Community School, Sleepy Eye High School, and Sartell Middle School. Students were escorted onto the Twins field near home base during the pregame show. Della Young, an LCCMR Commissioner, presented the award. This year, Northern Lights Community Schools YES! team took home top honors as the 2018YES! State Champions!

This summer our local NL-SYES! teams have been getting out on the water for the second year to learn about aquatic invasive species and survey area waters with help from a grant from the Kandiyohi County AIS Task Force. This fall these same YES! students will assist staff from PWELC, DNR and Middle Fork Crow River Watershed with the 4th Grade River Rally Day at Neer Park.



Twins Game

Next we'll turn our thoughts to the YES! Fall Summit which will kick off a year of Water Quality Projects (see Shelli-Kae's article) funded by the **Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund** as well as climate & energy action projects funded by the **McKnight Foundation**. This year the summit for teams in the west central and southern regions will be held at PWELC and the summit for the northern region will be held at Laurentian Environmental Center near Britt, MN. The Northern Lights Community School brought home state championship bragging rights to the northern region for 2018. We'll see if a west central team can bring the state trophy back "home" in 2019.









Notes from the Executive Director

by Dave Pederson, Executive Director

PWELC was hopping at home and on the road this summer.

The Yellow Boats Project pop-up events, paddling the Sauk & North Fork Crow River, constructing a composting restroom at the pavilion site, Spicer 4th of July parade, New London Water Days, Bonanza Valley Days, Summertime by George, Rockin' Robbins, rock climbing at Quarry Park, Forkhorn Camp, YES! AIS summer projects, Tommy Swenson Youth Sporting Clays Day, weddings at the Pavilion and on and on.

We had a super summer getting people into the great outdoors and now we turn our thoughts to two more of our four favorite seasons at PWELC, fall and winter. We'll kick off fall with our annual Prairie Stars event on Fri., Sept. 7th, and jump into the return of groups from schools, scouts, FFA, churches, and corporate retreats. We will cherish warm weather while it lasts and then embrace crisp fall days and the promise of winter to follow. PWELC has something for everyone in every season.



Come out and enjoy a walk through the woodland, wetland and prairie trails this fall and get ready to ski, snowshoe and kicksled your way through winter.

I look forward to seeing you at our Prairie Stars Fundraiser on Sept 7th and our annual membership meeting and potluck on Oct.15th. Let's celebrate the progress that so many have worked for and prepare for the challenges ahead. As we walked in parades this summer people would call out "we love Prairie Woods!" Our response: "we love you too!" Thanks for all that you do for PWELC to help get kids outdoors and connected to a lifetime of healthy outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship.



The Pinnacle always draws a crowd.

Dave



Yellow Boats 4th of July.

COMPOST HAPPENS! AT PRAIRIE WOODS

Thanks to Kandiyohi County Public Works & Kandiyohi County Community Corrections Sentence to Serve, PWELC has added a composting restroom facility at the farm site adjacent to the pavilion. The facility features four uni-sex stalls including one handicap accessible unit and one unit with a diaper changing station. The Clivus Multrum composters will save thousands of gallons of water each year for decades to come and will also help to educate our visitors about waterless waste management systems.



Composting Toilets at the Farmsite.

Time Travel - Mari Klebe

Nearly 600 students have had a taste of pioneer life so far this year. For a few lucky students the taste was genuine as they created their own pioneer lunch. A hearty potato soup was made after chopping potatoes, cheese, bacon and onions. Apples and carrots were sliced to be eaten on the side. Bread and apple butter was also served. Of course the meal wouldn't be complete without coffee and homemade ice cream. I wish the parents could hear the delight as the students exclaim "This is the best meal ever!" "I normally hate potatoes." "Coffee is disgusting!" Not only do the students get to prepare the meal, they also experience what goes

into getting the lunch started - sawing wood and keeping the fire going, planting and weeding the garden, doing dishes, churning and churning and churning. What would have been every day drudgery to a pioneer is thrilling to children now. Time goes so quickly at the Pioneer Cabin. They're always surprised when the day is done and it's time to hop on the bus.

If you know a class or organization that would benefit from a living history experience, please have them contact Mari at 320-354-5894.

If there is a child in your life that is interested in Pioneer life, please take a look at upcoming Community Ed offerings.



Teamwork to get the ice cream churned.



Nothing like a hearty pioneer lunch.



No time to relax. Someone has to clean up.

NICE THINGS DONE FOR PRAIRIE WOODS BY PEOPLE LIKE YOU:

- * United Way of West Central Minnesota has helped to support PWELC youth programs for over 15 years.
- * Scott Glup has volunteered many hours for prairie restoration and has helped to mobilize scouts and other volunteers.
- * Leo's Legs Fund of the Willmar Area Community Foundation is helping to sponsor Yellow Boats events this summer and fall. Like PWELC on Facebook to receive updates on Yellow Boats "pop-up" events which are scheduled spontaneously as weather allows.
- * The New London-Spicer Area Fund of the Willmar Area Community Foundation is sponsoring two Yellow Boats events in New London this summer.
- * Legacy Amendment funds administered by the Greater MN Parks and Trails Commission are funding PWELC programs in the beautiful parks throughout Wright and Stearns County.
- * Sue & John Bahr donated an antique corn planter to the Pioneer Cabin program.
- * Bob and Shirley Caine gave a memorial gift in honor of their good friend Hap McGill.
- * Bob and Sue Meyerson donated a kicksled.
- * The Warner family donated a kicksled.
- * Community Spotlight Grant- Thanks to 106.5 The Train and Anderson, Larson, Saunders & Klaassen, PLLP.
- * Jim and Marilynn Tiede donated a kicksled and items for the Recycled Outdoor Gear Sale.
- * Lee Thompson, Troy Heck, Mike Bundy, Mike Mastey, Todd Marxhausen, Jon Ulman, Kathy Lutz, Nate Grotelueschen, Andrew Lien Donated time on the shooting range.
- * Kandiyohi County Public Works and Kandiyohi County Community Service- Sentence to Serve did a stellar job of constructing the new composting restroom facility.
- * WAVES of Willmar for volunteering to clean, weed and do other jobs throughout the year.
- * Pioneer Cabin Volunteers Genell Grund, Dean Mortenson, Marti Carlson, Eric Anderson and Lee Thompson put in 103 volunteer hours combined and made a difference in the lives of hundreds of students.
- * Genell Grund donated a woven rug & rug beater to the Pioneer Cabin Program.
- * Christopher Van de Ven for redrawing our hiking and ski trail map.
- * **United Way** for setting up 2 volunteer service groups the Farmsite picnic tables got a new paint job and the life jackets were scrubbed until they looked like new.
- * Proceeds from the Tommy Swenson Memorial Ice Fishing Tournament helped to fund youth sporting programs and the annual Tommy Swenson Youth Day at the shooting range.
- * Donations made in memory of **James Dahl**.
- * Gifts given in honor of Steven & Sally Flesland's 50th Wedding Anniversay.
- * Danny Kulset our professional parade driver.
- * Evan Pallansch and Boy Scout Troop 227 for building benches for the challnge course to help become an Eagle Scout.



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



The summer of 2018 has been incredibly busy! Between dates on the challenge course and a full outreach schedule with the mobile climbing wall, PWELC touched thousands of people this summer with adventure and community building experiences. The Prairie Woods Pinnacle visited numerous events across West Central Minnesota. We attended a new venue this year called Summer Time by George which is a weekly summer concert series at Lake George in St. Cloud that

attracts 10-15,000 people per week. This is also one of the largest outreach programs we've ever been a part of. We joined them for two weeks in a row this past June and had over 1,100 participants experience the climbing wall thanks to a **Legacy Amendment** grant administered by **Wright and Stearns County Parks.**

There will be more opportunities to climb this fall because there are still plenty more stops scheduled along the Mobile Wall tour. Here are some of the venues where the mobile climbing wall has appeared or will appear this year: Rockin Robbins x4, Summer Time by George in St. Cloud x2, Monticello Walk & Roll, Kandiyohi County Fair (4 days), Meeker County Fair, Brooten Bonanza Valley Days, Quarry Park, 3M employee picnic in Alexandria, Raymond Harvest Festival, Alexandria Viking Sportsmens Day, Prairie Pothole Day, University of MN Morris, and more. Do you have an event that could use a bit of PWELC adventure? We deliver! But reserve early as dates for 2019 are already filling in.

The mobile climbing wall has been a big hit at home as it has been on the road. On rainy or hot/sunny days the mobile wall is set up in the Pavilion which provides shade and shelter as needed. A huge thanks to all who helped fund the mobile climbing wall and the pavilion!

Also, now is a great time to schedule your group for a challenge course experience in September and October. And when the weather turns cold you can plan to join us for climbing throughout the winter at our indoor climbing facility.

Please feel free to contact us to set up your next PWELC adventure!

Be sure to check our website and Facebook to follow the mobile climbing wall.





Quarry Climb 2018



YMCA Climb

THE GOVERNOR'S FISHING OPENER was held in Kandiyohi County this year and PWELC was pleased to participate as a sponsor and program provider. On Friday, May 11th, PWELC hosted media guests out on the Mill Pond in the Big Canoe, as well as hosting another media group for a program sampler at PWELC followed by lunch in the Westby Observatory. We rounded out a great day with the mobile climbing wall at the community picnic held at Robbins Island. A big thanks goes out to Beth Fischer and the Willmar Area CVB along with dozens of sponsors and hundreds of volunteers who helped bring this event to Kandiyohi County.

Thank you for remembering PWELC in your end-of-year giving and estate planning.





Enjoying a float in aYellow Boat

A big thanks to our sponsors of the Yellow Boats Project: The Bernick Family Foundation, Tebben Enterprises, New London Spicer Area Fund of the Willmar Area Community Foundation and Leo's Legs Fund.

HOME ON THE RANGE

Forkhorn Camp started with a bang this year. It seems like it's become tradition to have thunderstorms the first night of camp; the first night many of the campers have ever slept in a tent. That night was followed by a day of nearly 100 degree heat index. Ten campers (and the hearty staff) worked through it, kept their cool, survived and successfully completed the fire arm safety camp. We welcome ten new, prepared, tested, ethical hunters to the area.





Using muzzle control as they hike to the Westby Shooting Range.

Forkhorn Camp at the Shooting Range.

NEEDS AND GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

- * Scandinavian Kicksleds \$240 each. Goal: 20 kicksleds (remaining need 15)
- * Sponsor aYES! team or YES! prize awards. (\$500, \$1000, \$1500)
- Endowment Fund- Gifts of all sizes are welcome!
- * Scholarship assistance for low income students (\$20 per student)
- Volunteers to help with trail work and trailhead duties
- * Volunteers to help with special events and school programs.

RENEWABLE NEWS AT PWELC

Energy Upate: Over the past 12 months PWELC has been a net energy producer having put over 2000 kilowatt hours out to the grid beyond what has been required to run our main campus. In 2004 PWELC started to work intensively on converting to renewable energy sources, reducing our carbon footprint and reducing our energy costs. Along the way we have added solar pv, solar air heating panels, solar hot water systems, wind power, heating with renewable fuels, and a whole host of energy efficiency and energy conservation measures. It feels good, it is good.



Prairie Woods Warbler www.prairiewoodselc.org pwelc@co.kandiyohi.mn.us 320-354-5894 Spicer, Minnesota

YES! STUDENTS TAKE ON WATER QUALITY CHALLENGE

-Shelli-Kae Foster, YES! Program Manager

We are excited to announce our new YES! project called "YES Students Take on Water Quality Challenge" funded by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust fund (ENRTF) as recommended by the Legislative Citizen-Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). On May 30, 2018 Governor Dayton signed into Legislation a bonding bill which includes this





project to "mobilize youth in over 20 communities to help fill the urgent need for broad citizen participation to protect and clean up Minnesota waters."

PWELC will partner with Laurentian Environmental Center and Ney Nature Center to facilitate the completion of a variety of projects including; water quality assessments, shoreline restoration, researching and tracking data on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in local waterways, and water conservation. The goal is to not only complete these valuable projects but to also educate students and adults on ways we can all be part of the solution to today's ecological challenges.

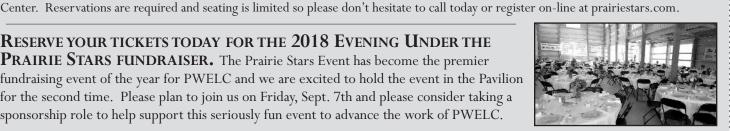
We would like to partner with local organizations who can offer expertise, boats or support. Contact Ali or Shelli-Kae for more details at 320-441-9254 or sayyes@mn.org

(If you would like to help sponsor Youth Eco Solutions in your community please give us a call!)

It's that time again!!!! An Evening of Music Under the PRAIRIE STARS.

Please plan to join us for the premier fundraising event of the year at PWELC on Friday, Sept. 7th. The "High 48's" will be back by popular demand to provide lively tunes. Expect an evening of great food, great music, fun silent auction items and great people gathered together to celebrate our progress and support the work of Prairie Woods Environmental Learning

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS TODAY FOR THE 2018 EVENING UNDER THE **PRAIRIE STARS FUNDRAISER.** The Prairie Stars Event has become the premier fundraising event of the year for PWELC and we are excited to hold the event in the Pavilion for the second time. Please plan to join us on Friday, Sept. 7th and please consider taking a sponsorship role to help support this seriously fun event to advance the work of PWELC.



THANKS TO A LEGACY AMENDMENT GRANT

through the Greater MN Parks and Trails Commission PWELC is busy offering a great slate of experiences in the parks of Wright and Stearns Counties this summer, fall and winter. Check the websites for Wright and Stearns County Parks or give us a call to check out climbing, paddling, skiing and kicksledding programs scheduled for the parks this fall and winter.







KICKSLEDS! Several winters of low snow and brown ground have sent us searching for fun alternative winter program activities. Kicksleds can be used on bare ice on our sloughs or also on snow w/ the addition of snow-runners. In the last newsletter we put out a call for kicksleds and we are pleased to report that four families stepped up to donate kicksleds bringing our total to five and we are at 25% toward our goal of 20 kicksleds by winter.

By this winter we hope to have a fleet of kicksleds in service for winter programs and available for weekend rentals. The kicksleds, which are imported from Norway and Finland come in several sizes to suit our small to XL sized participants. The kicksleds cost approx. \$240 each and our goal is to acquire 20 sleds in order to outfit one group and have the sleds available for rent on weekends. If you would like to donate a kicksled with your name or the name of your business or organization attached please give Dave a call at 320-354-5894.

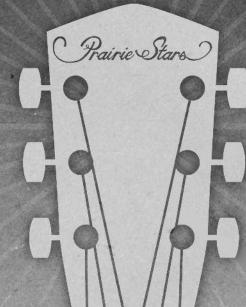
Please remember Prairie Woods in your estate planning and annual giving.

PRAIRIE WOODS ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER PRESENTS...

MUSIC UNDER THE Prairie Stars

AN EARTH CONSCIOUS BENEFIT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OF OUR YOUTH

FRIDAY
SEPT. 7TH
2018
5:30_{PM}



PRAIRIE WOODS ELC

JOIN US FOR OUR 11th Annual Fundraiser

- * COCKTAILS
- * LOCALLY GROWN DINNER UNDER THE STARS
- * "GREEN" SILENT AUCTION
- * AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY: ONLY \$50 EACH

CALL: 320-354-5894

SURF: WWW.PRAIRIESTARS.COM

VISIT: PRAIRIE WOODS ELC 12718 10TH ST NE SPICER, MN 56288





PARTY IN THE NEW PAVILION!

THIS EVENT GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY:

Lakeland Broadcasting

KWLM 1340 AM 863 PM 102 BIG 108.19. 106 \$ 5

PRAIRIE WOODS ELC BOARD OF TRUSTEES



PWELC COMMUNITY EDUCATION OFFERINGS FALL 2018

PIONEER CRAFTS......Ages: 1st-6th Grade

Come to the Pioneer Cabin at Prairie Woods! Dress as a pioneer and make several different crafts. Learn which crafts would be done for fun (corn husk dolls, buzz saws) and which ones would be done for necessity (dipping candles, sewing). All for you to take home! Each date will have different crafts. (meet at the Pioneer Cabin on the Farm Site)

Date: Thursday, Sept. 13 Tuesday, Nov. 13 Time: 4:00- 5:30 pm Cost: \$6/session

GAME DAY AT THE PIONEER CABINAges: 1st-6th Grade

Who's up for some friendly competition? After dressing as a pioneer, unplug for an afternoon 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 the Pioneer Cabin on the Farm Site)

Date:Tuesday, Oct. 23 Time: 4:00 – 5:30 pm Cost \$5

PWELC SAMPLERGrades: 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: Thursday, October 18th Time: 8:00-4:00 Cost: \$25

HALLOWEEN HAUNTGrades: K-5

Talk with the creatures on the enchanted trail to find out what they are dong to get ready for winter, carve a jack-o-lantern, and climb on the wall in costume.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. (meet at main building)

Date: Friday, October 26th Time: 6:00-9:00pm Cost: \$8

AFTER SCHOOL ARCHERY CLUBGrades: 4 and up

It is a lot of fun learning and practicing the skill of archery. We will be using compound bows to improve our skills. We shoot Olympic style archery, 3-d targets, and use the Native American atl-atl's. All while aiming to have a great time. (meet at farmsite)

 INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING GYMAll Ages

6

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. Meet at the main building. Sign up for one or more (Registration required).

Date:

- -Thursday, September 6th 2018
- -Thursday, October 11th 2018
- -Thursday, November 1st 2018
- -Thursday, December 6th 2018 Time: 4:00pm – 5:30pm

Cost: \$10 per climber / per session

KAYAK THE CROW RIVER.....

Join the Guides from Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center for an exciting adventure on the water. Kayaks, gear and instruction will be provided. Registration required. Max of 18 participants.

Location: Mill Pond Access (New London, Minnesota)
Ages: 12 and up Call for additional information about
younger children

Date: Wednesday, September 12th 2018
Time: 5:00pm - 7:00pm Fee: \$15.00 per Kayak



