



**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
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 2013

- ☐ New Member
☐ Renewing Member

SUPPORTER'S MEMBERSHIP

- ☐ Individual Membership \$30.00
☐ Family Membership \$45.00
☐ Organization/Business Membership Please call for rates.
☐ I / we are interested in volunteering at Prairie Woods.

BENEFACTOR'S MEMBERSHIP

- ☐ \$100 to \$499
☐ \$500 to \$999
☐ \$1000

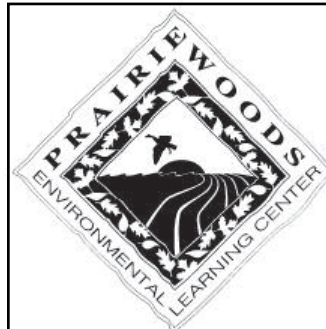
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Please enclose payment to Prairie Woods ELC, and send to:

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



Central Minnesota
Community Foundation
Engage. Inspire. Build Community.

VOLUME 21

SPRING 2013

ISSUE 1

BOARD MEMBERS 2013

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Hey! Nice TRUCK!

Thanks to Willmar Area Community Foundation, Atwater Ford, Kandiyohi County and the Norcross Foundation, Prairie Woods was able to purchase a very nice pre-owned Ford F150 four wheel drive pick-up truck. The truck will transport the big canoe for Project Eco-Voyageur as well as serve as an all-purpose vehicle for taking care of the property and facilities at Prairie Woods. We really can't say THHHHHHAAAAANKKKK YUUUUUUUUUUUUU loud enough and long enough to those who contributed to this project.

With the addition of some nice lettering and graphics the truck will increase our visibility in the communities we serve. We are delighted to have a nice looking dependable vehicle for pulling our big canoe to programs and parades throughout the region.



Collaboration with Sibley State Park continues to grow in 2013

In December, staff from Prairie Woods met with Sibley State Park Naturalist, Dick Clayton to discuss how we can work cooperatively with school groups. Students visiting Prairie Woods for multi-day residential programs will now have the option of spending part of a day at Sibley State Park. What a great combo!!!

We are also excited to announce some expanded cooperative programs coming up this summer. Thanks to a grant from the Minnesota DNR, park visitors will once again have the opportunity to paddle on Lake Andrew in a 34' voyageur canoe guided by staff from Prairie Woods and Sibley State Park. Campers at Sibley S.P. will also enjoy opportunities to participate in shooting sports at the Gary Westby Educational Shooting Range and possibly rock climbing on the walls at Prairie Woods.

Remember the Recycled Outdoor Gear Sale!

Please remember that Prairie Woods can be a part of your spring cleaning solutions as you wonder what to do with some of that outdoor gear that just hasn't been used for a few years. Your donations of good used outdoor recreation equipment can help to fund youth programs at Prairie Woods. Donate stuff today and come out and shop for other peoples treasures on Saturday, June 15th from 8a-1pm. Boats, canoes, camping, fishing, hunting gear etc. are great additions to the annual Recycled Outdoor Gear Sale. Please give us a call to arrange pick-up or drop-off of your donated goods.



Upcoming Events at Prairie Woods

Earth Day 2013Saturday, April 20 8am-1pm
9th Annual JJM Victory RunSaturday, June 15
Recycled Outdoor Gear SaleSaturday, June 15 (8a-1p).
Little Crow Archers 3D-60 2 day archery event.Sat. & Sun August 10& 11
An Evening of Music Under the Prairie StarsFriday, Sept. 6th



*Notes from the Executive Director*

by Dave Pederson, Executive Director

Welcome to the Spring Edition of the Prairie Woods Warbler.

Although, as I write this note on March 19th, we still have some deep drifts from the most recent blizzard, we are preparing for the inevitability of Spring. I hope that by the time you receive this newsletter that the pasque flowers are showing themselves on the sunny prairie slopes below the wind



turbine and our ponds are opening up to welcome returning wildlife.

Spring is exciting at Prairie Woods! Virtually every day in May is packed with students visiting from throughout the region. It is not unusual to have two to three schools visiting Prairie Woods on the same day that we are conducting programs off-site with Project Eco-Voyageur and/or the Youth Energy Summit (YES!). Spring is a time that Prairie Woods is able to engage literally thousands of people in environmental education and outdoor recreation. Fantastic !!..... but of course it doesn't just happen. It takes a tremendous amount of dedication and hard work from our staff, volunteers, board members and friends like you to make it all possible.

So, please enjoy catching up with a bit of Prairie Woods news. Once you have read through the newsletter I hope that you will pass it on to friends, family and co-workers. Please help spread the word about Earth Day by placing the poster insert in a prominent place in your home, school, church or community.

Thanks so much for all that you do for Prairie Woods!

Sincerely,

*Dave***MWA PRAIRIE POTHOLE CHAPTER-
HABITAT DAY TRADITION CONTINUES**

Approximately 100 people visited Prairie Woods on a sunny Saturday morning in March to construct over 45 wood duck boxes. A big thanks to the Prairie Pothole Chapter of Minnesota Waterfowl Association for putting on this great event each year. Over the years this event has helped to produce hundreds of wood duck boxes and thousands of wood ducks. If you missed out on Habitat Day be sure to look for it next year and check in with the MWA booth at the upcoming Earth Day 2013 event at Prairie Woods.

*"MWA Habitat Day 2013"*

**THANKS UNITED WAY OF WEST CENTRAL
MINNESOTA FOR
HELPING US TO GET
THOUSANDS OF
KIDS UP OFF THE
COUCH AND INTO
THE GREAT OUTDOORS!!**



Is there a graduation, wedding reception, family reunion or other special event in your future????? Forget about having to clean the house, replace the carpet and buy a new sofa..... just call Ann Phillips at Prairie Woods and arrange to rent one of our memory making spaces(i.e. Westby Observatory, the Earl B Olson Addition, Tree House or the Barn). You save time and money... and your rental fees help to support youth programs at Prairie Woods.



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

**1ST ANNUAL ZOMBIE RUN**

Approximately 70 runners and 25 "zombies" participated in the first annual Zombie Run 5k+ at PWELC on Oct. 20th. A great time was had by all. Runners not only had to negotiate manmade obstacles along the 5k+ route but they also had to

*"Friendly Zombies"*

evade "zombies" who would try to grab flags/tags from the runners. Thanks to Dan Hubbard, Director of the Glacial Lakes Running Series, and Beth Fischer, Director of the Willmar Lakes Area Convention and Visitor Bureau, for organizing the run. This was a really fun and creative way to get families, friends and our favorite zombies out for fun and fellowship in the great outdoors. Stay tuned for dates and times for the 2013 event.

*"Head's Up for Zombies"**"Super Fun"***GET READY TO RUN WILD (AGAIN)
AT PRAIRIE WOODS!!**

The **9th Annual JJM Victory Run** will start at 9am on Saturday, June 15, 2013. Come out and run or walk the trails on 5K or 1mile courses. Whether you are a casual walker or a die-hard competitive runner, the trails at Prairie Woods provide the setting for a great morning of fun and fitness. All proceeds support youth programs at Prairie Woods. Contact Race Coordinator Deb Anderson for details. Pre-registration is encouraged.

Check for details on the Prairie Woods Facebook page or www.prairiewoodselc.org.

SITE IMPROVEMENTS:

- * By the close of the year we had repaired 95% of the damage resulting from a May 2012 hailstorm. We now have new roofing on all buildings on campus including: the Barn, Education Building, Westby Observatory, maintenance shed, log cabin, granary, farm house & garage, the Bernick's Outdoor Classroom and the shooting range. 80 new replacement windows were installed in the Westby Observatory and Education Building. When warm weather returns we will complete staining and painting of the siding damaged by the hail. We hope to have things pretty well spruced up again by Earth Day.
- * The end of 2012 marked our second year of operating with (net) 100% renewable energy. Despite having our wind turbine out of commission for nearly three months, due to repairs related to a lightning strike, our electricity production in 2012 exceeded our consumption by 2400 kilowatts. Yahoo!
- * Kandiyohi County Public Works replaced the deteriorating PIC Bridge with a culvert. Thanks Kandiyohi County! Jeff Bredberg from Kandiyohi County and Skip Wright of the DNR consulted with us prior to the work. The improvement is particularly appreciated by the ski trail grooming crew which no longer needs to fit 8' wide equipment over a 8'6" wide bridge.
- * Kandiyohi County Public Works improved the access to the wind turbine, via the old farmsite drive and ski trail, to enable a mobile crane to get into the site. The work was conducted mainly in previously disturbed areas. Thanks Kandiyohi County!
- * Marc Reese and Paul Hellenschmidt continue to work on the log cabin to repair/replace several rotted corner logs. Please say thanks to Marc and Paul as well as Roger Strand for helping with the log cabin project. Thanks also to Coralie Jacobson for putting a fresh coat of stain on the cabin last fall.
- * Chappell Central installed an air source heat pump to provide heating and cooling in the YES! office. We now have the ability to efficiently heat and cool our three office rooms with electricity generated on site, thus reducing the number of days that we need to operate our biomass boiler.
- * A radon mitigation system was installed in the farm house and has successfully reduced radon levels below the EPA recommended standard. We like knowing that Kory, Mari and Hayden are living in a healthy home. Have you checked radon levels in your home?

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

*YES! Updates* - Jonathan Morales - YES! Unit Coordinator
2012 YES! WINTER WORKSHOP COMPENDIUM

"I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand." This famous quote by Confucius sums up the nature of experiential learning and why it is so integral to the Youth Energy Summit (YES!) program. One does not have to look far to see that the YES! partnership between Prairie Woods ELC and the Southwest Initiative Foundation has fostered the opportunity for thousands of kids to benefit from experiential education.

With 32 YES! teams this year, we embraced the diversity of their projects and put on six different Winter Workshops. The workshops took place in Glencoe, The College of St. Benedict, Mankato, Kennedy Community School in St. Joseph, Alexandria, and Milan. The series of workshops started in Glencoe on January 16th where the Glencoe YES! team is building a car for the Supermileage Competition. Students were able to meet with leaders from the ethanol and automotive industries to help them develop their Supermileage Car and really get things rolling!

The next workshop was held at the College of St. Benedict on January 30th. This workshop was developed for teams focusing their efforts on composting and recycling at their schools. While touring the campus, students visited the green student housing residence where the YES! teams found out what it takes to be green on a college campus. Students saw the connections within their projects as they got the chance to talk with local compost and recycling experts. No tour is complete without some free food! So we wrapped up the day with a demonstration from the St. Ben's waste-to-hog program and a delicious lunch at the Gorecki Dining Center.

After St. Ben's, we moved out to Mankato on February 6th where the Mankato West YES! team showed off the impressive energy-monitoring system they installed at their school as their YES! energy action project last year. Teams learned a lot through some fun hands-on activities demonstrating the physics of energy, and discussion with a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) architect. Teams also toured Gustavus Adolphus College and Rosa Parks Elementary School, a LEED Gold certified school. Students left this inspiring day with enthusiasm for projects at their own schools.

While the Mankato Workshop was in process on February 6th, there was another YES! Winter Workshop going on at Kennedy Community School in St. Joseph. There, teams toured an energy efficient school and learned about the power of solar from a hands-on demonstration with the Solar Oven Society. Kennedy Community School is one of the first U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools and is also a LEED Gold certified building. The green technology in these buildings is

avant-garde to say the least. From the solar panels on the roof to the ultra quiet VOC-free tiling in the library, it was plain to see these students were proud of every inch of their school.

We had another busy day with two workshops on February 13th. One took place in Alexandria, and another in Milan. The Alexandria workshop included a tour of Solar Skies, LLC, manufacturer of solar thermal collectors. Teams also stopped at the Pope/Douglas Solid Waste to Energy Facility to witness how steam from garbage is turned into energy for the local 3M plant, hospital and Alexandria Technical and Community College (ATCC). After that, teams had the opportunity to visit the Alexandria Technical and Community College and take a tour of their energy efficiency measures.

Over in Milan, teams focusing on local foods projects got a chance to meet with Chuck Waibel, a local leader when it comes to growing greens in the harsh Minnesota winters. The day started off with a stop at Chuck's personal passive solar greenhouse where he pioneered his passive solar system. The simplicity of the system is one of its most attractive features; its efficiency using the little sunlight available during the Minnesota winter, has allowed this system to flourish. Other people in the area saw the value in this system and opened their own passive solar greenhouses. Thankfully, they also saw the value of educating the next generation of growers and in turn opened their doors to YES!. With YES! teams committed to building their own greenhouses, it was important for them to appreciate the big picture so we also stopped out to Moonstone Farm where Audrey Arner helped students wrap their heads around the real value of locally grown, healthy foods.

Throughout each of these Winter Workshops, YES! students had the opportunity to gain further understanding of the best practices in their communities. The key is to keep these students engaged in meaningful action. With many eager minds comes the responsibility to cultivate in them a world ethic that allows them to find a path that leads to a healthy, productive and sustainable future for everyone. Many thanks to all the people that make YES! possible and join in the journey to a brighter future.

Major funding for YES! is provided from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). Major funding is also provided by the Southwest Initiative Foundation. We also want to thank the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation for providing funding for teams in their service area.

*EE Notes* - Kory Klebe, Environmental Education Coordinator**I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU ONE OF MY FAVORITE WINTER RECIPES:**

Start with 5 inches of fresh snow

Sprinkle with 3-6 hours of sunshine

Add- 1 pair of cross country skis or snowshoes per student

Mix with as many students as possible (dressed for the weather)

-Place all ingredients in a 500 acre receptacle with several knowledgeable and enthusiastic instructors.

-Garnish with animal tracks, hoar frost, deer sightings and other nature surprises.

-At the end of the day you are sure to have cooked up a busload of tired but happy, rose-cheeked kids.

A fantastic winter field trip.*

This recipe was a big hit this February with over 500 students from KMS, Hutchinson, St. Francis, Litchfield and Comfrey, as well as dozens of families during Winter Family Fun Day. If you want to try this winter recipe call Chef Kory or Dishwasher Deb to set up a program. (Editor's note: Deb's not going to like that, Kory).

*Recipe can be adjusted to fit needs and seasons (i.e. substitute water for snow and canoes, paddles, lifejackets for skis in paddling season; Climbing harnesses, ropes and climbing walls can also provide a tasty variation). Call us today to discuss our menu of outdoor experiences for your group.

**HOME ON THE RANGE** By Kory Klebe

At the end of February there was still snow on the ground and another 6-12 inches in the forecast for the next week, but I was thinking about spring time at Prairie Woods. More specifically spring time at the Gary Westby Educational Shooting Range. So, I put on some snowshoes, because that is the only way to get to the range in the winter, and took a stomp around the range. As the snow crunched under my feet I recalled the hundreds of clays that were busted during the spring shooting leagues, the flushing of pheasants and deer during our firearm safety field days, working with 1st time shooters during intro to shooting sports programs with Sibley State Park, and helping youth improving their shotgun skills as part of Pheasant's Forever Young Guns programs. As I finished my hike around the range I had a smile on my face knowing that starting in April (if the weather cooperates) we will be able to do it all again.

Come be a part of the action. Call us to inquire about all the different programs at the Westby Shooting Range or set up a customized shooting sports program for your own group.

***Important shooting range dates:**

June 16th -20th Forkhorn Camp I –Youth Firearm Safety Camp

June 23rd -27th Forkhorn Camp II –Youth Bow Safety Camp

June 28th 3D Deer shoot.

Call for details on Spring Sporting Clays Leagues

THE 11TH ANNUAL SPECIAL HUNT

The 11th Annual Special Hunt was held on Fri. Nov. 9-11, 2012. A big thanks to organizers Ryan Newville and Dave Muetzel for all of their hard work and dedication to the special hunt! Ten hunters participated this year with the assistance of nearly thirty volunteers who helped out as hunting partners, shuttle drivers, and "chefs." Each year the barn becomes the deer shack filled with warmth from the woodstove, good food and stories from hunts past and hunts to come. Please make a point of thanking Ryan and Dave when you see them in the community. This annual wheelchair accessible hunt has become a great fall tradition at Prairie Woods.

We want to send out a big thanks to Kandiyohi Power Charitable Trust for a \$500 contribution to the Special Hunt for the purpose of upgrading trailers and blinds.

A very special thanks to all of the contributors and volunteers who made the 2012 hunt possible, including: **Midas Auto Service, West Central Steel, Home Depot, West Central Roofing, Kandiyohi County Sheriff Dept., Willmar Police Department, Kandi Roofing, Dooley's Petroleum, Green Lake Trailer Works, Spicer American Legion, Spicer Sons of the American Legion, Scheels, Jennie-O Turkey Store, dozens of volunteers and all of you who purchased Special Hunt Raffle Tickets.**

Please call the Prairie Woods office (320-354-5894) to purchase (or help sell) raffle tickets to support the 2013 Hunt.

A gift to the Prairie Woods Sustainability Endowment lives forever.



Challenge Course Notes- Deb Anderson- Challenge Course Coordinator

HIGH POINTS FROM THE CHALLENGE COURSE

Spring has arrived!! That means we are all starting to think about warm weather, green grass, longer days filled with sunshine and the sounds of birds and frogs. Here at Prairie Woods it also means the start of a very



"Friends in high places"

busy season of adventure for young and old. We will soon hear the sounds of laughter and learning echoing from the top of the hills and across the wetlands. Prairie Woods is a great place to welcome Spring.

Even though our indoor climbing walls have been busy this winter, it is now time to get busy opening up our outdoor challenge course. I am excited to start hearing the stories of people as they come out this year. Stories of how relationships were

built, stories of how kids 'cheering made someone feel proud for the first time, stories of sports teams really figuring out what it is to work as a team and stories of why a day spent here is often the "best day of my life". I also get to watch as the "I can't" turns to "I'll try" and

the "I'll try" turns into "I DID IT"!!

We look forward to seeing you at Prairie Woods this spring and summer. The calendar is already filling in so please call today to schedule your group for a day of team building and memories on the Challenge Course at Prairie Woods.



"Aubry's ready to climb"



"Giant Ladder Buddies"



AN EVENING OF MUSIC UNDER THE PRAIRIE STARS

Here's another big shout out for all who helped to make the 2012 Evening of Music Under the Prairie Stars a huge success. The event raised approximately \$24,000 to support youth and family programs at Prairie Woods. Thanks everyone for the great support needed to pull off another very successful event. We were blessed with an excellent Prairie Stars Committee and generous donors. Major sponsors included:

Premier Underwriter \$5000

Jennie – O Turkey Store

Event Underwriter \$2500

Lakeland Broadcasting

Eco-Sponsors \$1000

Affiliated Medical Center

Family Practice Medical Center

Prairie Partners \$500

Anfinson & Thompson & Co., CPA's

Atwater State Bank

Duininck Brothers

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Lake Region Bank

John and Mary Lindstrom

Roger & Kay Strand

Anonymous

Voyageur Level \$250

Conway, Deuth & Schmiesing, PLLP

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John & Karin Gilbertson

Robert & Pauline Halvorson

Robert & Patricia Kaiser

Lakes Area Dental

James & Theresa Lippert Rieth

Dennis & Ruthanne Neeser

Northern States Supply

Dave Pederson & Ruth Fairchild

Dennis & Karen Peterson

Pioneer Heritage Insurance, LLC

State Farm Agency

Jim & Terry Tetzloff

Three Seasons & More

West Central Tribune

West Central Sanitation

*The Prairie Stars planning committee is once again moving into full swing. If you would like to volunteer to assist w/ planning the 2013 event or have ideas/suggestions for auction items or sponsors please call Dave at PWELC or contact Laura Nelson, 2013 Prairie Stars Committee Chair. Please plan to join us on Sept. 6th for Prairie Stars 2013.



"The High 48's"



Photo credit to
NW Luft
Photography

We had a fantastic Prairie Stars silent auction thanks to the following contributors:

Denise Smith, Minnesota Twins, Carol & Myron VanDeVen, Green Lake Nursery, Marv Calvin, Ron Erpelding, Pat Walsh & Atwater Ford, Walt's Car Wash, PWELC Trustees, Mr. B's Chocolates, John & Christina Wordes, Precision Archery, Cashwise, Pheasants Forever, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Clair Verch, Lyndon Hanson, Green Mill and Chef Monte, Becky & Scott Mueller, Fit by Mandy, D's Creations, Cindy Ohl, Christa Otteson & Josh Reed- Make Do Workshop, Minnesota SWARM, Green Envy, Little Crow Golf Course, Loren Luschen, Eagle Creek Golf Course, Dale & Deb Anderson, Minnesota Dark House Anglers Association, Molly Elkjer- Lil Boutique, Mike Lynch, Steve Hage, Bob Erickson, Amanda Raetzman, Bill Gabbert, Tracy Bjork of Lost Valley Woodwork, Janet Felton, Linden Chiropractic, St. Paul Saints

Thanks a ton to the Prairie Stars committee for putting on a wonderful evening and a tremendous fundraising event for Prairie Woods.

2012 Committee members included: Mary Merlin (chairperson), Beth Anderson, Amanda Toutges, Ron Erpelding, Laura Nelson, Joel Schmidt, Jennifer Templer, Jim Tetzloff & Christina Wordes

THE 2013 BOWHUNTER 3D-60 ARCHERY EVENT

put on by Little Crow Archers and Swift County Archers is scheduled for August 10th & 11th. The Bowhunter 3D-60 is gaining a state-wide reputation as a two day family friendly event for novice and expert archers alike. Walk a beautiful course at Prairie Woods and enjoy 60 challenging targets. Register for this event by contacting Little Crow Archers. For details check out www.littlecrowarchers.com. Walk-ins are welcome.



CALL FOR DETAILS ON SPRING SPORTING CLAYS LEAGUES

SOME OF THE NICE THINGS DONE FOR PRAIRIE WOODS by People Like You (please make a point of thanking these folks when you see them out in the community!)

Friends and Family sent memorial gifts to Prairie Woods in honor of:

Elroy Monson,
Rick Pederson,
Dr. Bob McAfee
Raymond O. Thompson
Shirley Buckley

Recent Gifts to the Sustainability Endowment were made by:

Jerome & Elaine Schliep
Jeff & Sue Danielson
Eleanore Pederson & Family
Joel & Cathy Halbritter

- * The **Gale Family** sent a gift in honor of Joani Easterlund's birthday.
- * **Matt Behm** generously directed a \$2500 prize award to Prairie Woods which he had received from Quasar.
- * **Jeff & LeAnn Ettinger** continued their longstanding support of PWELC at the benefactor level.
- * **Terry Myllenbeck**- donated tools, time and the use of a brush mower
- * Over 30 people volunteered to help with the Zombie Run
- * Thanks to the **People First** group for assisting with the Indian History Village.
- * Over 20 people volunteered to help with Halloween Haunt including members of the **NL-S National Honor Society**.
- * **Prinsco** donated culverts which were used for obstacles for the Zombie Run and one which was used to improve the cross country ski trail.
- * **Nathan Luft** donated his photography services for the Prairie Stars fundraiser.
- * **The Prairie Stars Committee** works throughout the year to put on a great fundraising event each fall. Thanks Laura Nelson for serving as committee chair for 2013!

- * **Prairie Woods Trustees and Governing Board** members give generously of their time and talents.
- * **Lori Carrigan**-donated a 16' Lund fishing boat, 50 hp Evinrude motor and a nice EZ Loader trailer.
- * **Kandiyohi Power Charitable Trust** awarded a \$500 grant to the Special Hunt for the purpose of upgrading trailers and blinds.
- * **Willmar Area Community Foundation** has helped out with a number of great projects over the years including the yurt, indoor climbing wall, challenge course equipment, the wetland walkway, cross country skis etc. WACF awarded an \$8000 grant to Prairie Woods for the purchase of the new truck.
- * **Kandiyohi County**, which owns the PWELC buildings and grounds, has been an absolutely essential partner in the development and success of Prairie Woods. In 1992 the County Commissioners made the bold move of acquiring land for an environmental learning center. Twenty-some years later through the combined efforts of many partners Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center serves as a regional center for environmental education and outdoor recreation.
- * **Pat Walsh and Atwater Ford** have supported Prairie Woods for a number of years by contributing ever-popular tickets for Gopher athletic events and really stepped up to help us leverage grant funds to acquire a truck at far below book value.
- * The **Norcross Foundation**, located in Massachusetts, has also quietly assisted us with several projects over the years and provided a \$3000 grant to help purchase the truck.

Thank You!

EARTH DAY

SATURDAY APRIL 20TH
8:00AM -TO- 1:00PM
PRAIRIE WOODS ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER
12718 10TH STREET NE, SPICER • 320-354-5894
WWW.PRAIRIEWOODSEL.C.ORG



8:00-10:00AM : PANCAKES (FREE-WILL)

8:00AM-1:00PM : EXHIBITS & KIDS ACTIVITIES

10:30-11:30AM : MN ZOO ZOOMOBILE

11:30AM-12:30PM : MN ZOO ZOOMOBILE

ATTRACTIONS: MN Zoo Zoomobile, Free Trees, Water Quality Info, Geocaching, Educational Activities, Digital Photo Workshop, Live Reptiles, DNR Fish Tank & Laser Shot, Info Booths, Mini Putt Putt, Aquatic Invasive Species Demo, Archaeology Exhibits, Flint-Knapping Demos

KID'S ACTIVITIES: Tie-Dying, Climbing Wall, T-shirt Bags & More!

EVENT ORGANIZERS:



Jennie-O Turkey Store • Luke Geiger Creative



PWELC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

HIGH ADVENTURE DAY CAMP

Grades 3-7 (If an older group would be interested I will schedule a separate class. Call PWELC to arrange 320-354-5894)
This is it! The day camp you have been asking about and waiting for. . . High Adventure! Spend a thrilling day at PW experiencing new adventures on the ground and in the air. Fly through the air on the Flying Squirrel, challenge yourself on the 40 foot climbing tower, use teamwork to climb the Giant’s Ladder and much more. Bring a bag lunch and be prepared to have LOTS of fun.

Tues, June 18, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, OR
Thursday, July 11, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, OR
Tuesday, July 30, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm OR
Thurs, Aug 15, 9:00–4:00
Attend one session.
\$25 per person (min of 10)

SPLASH BASH

Grades 3-7
This is a Wet and Wild Day Camp full of games and water activities. Bring a swim suit or an extra change of clothes, because we will play games with water, canoe on the water and take a closer look at water. A fun, educational day of laughter and learning. Bring a bag lunch and a towel.

Wed, July 24
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
\$25 per person (min of 8)

INVESTIGATE AND RESCUE DAY CAMP

Grades K-4
SSHHHHH... Where did all the animals go?? Investigating where they might be and how we can rescue them, while learning about nature and about working together as a team. We might even have to rescue them from hidden places on the climbing wall. Be a hero! Help us rescue the animals. Bring a sack lunch.

Thursday, August 1
9:00 am to 2:00 pm
\$25 per person (min of 8)

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS *EARTH DAY CELEBRATION*

Open to all
A fun and educational experience for the whole family. Booths, exhibits, and activities offer information about water quality, energy efficiency, land management, and much more. Pancake and sausage breakfast from 8-10am (free will donation). Enjoy food, entertainment, kid activities and information about “greening” your life.
No pre-registration necessary.

Date: Saturday, April 20
Time: 8:00am-1:00pm
Cost: Free

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.

Date: Tues-Thurs, June 11, 12, 13 OR
Tues-Thurs, July 9, 10, 11
Time: 8:30am-11:30am
Cost: \$55

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.

Date: Fri, June 28
Time: 9-12
Cost: \$15

FORKHORN I CAMP

Forkhorn campers will sleep in tents under the stars as they learn beginning hunter skills. This camp is designed to provide extensive hands-on instruction in basic firearm safety, shooting technique, hunter’s ethics, and wildlife ecology. MN DNR firearm safety certification is part of this camp.

Age: 11-15 years old
Date: June 16-20
Time: Check-in Sunday @ 3pm,
Check-out Thursday @ 1pm
***Call Prairie Woods ELC for registration packet**

FORKHORN II CAMP

Forkhorn II is an advanced camp for youth who have graduated from Forkhorn I or have completed their firearm safety training. It goes beyond the basics and will include orienteering and bow hunting skills. Students will be certified in MN DNR bow hunter education program.

Age: 11-15 years old
Date: June 23-27
Time: Check-in Sunday @ 3pm,
Check-out Thursday @ 1pm
***call Prairie Woods ELC for registration packet**

