



PRAIRIE WOODS
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

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- ♦ Know you are supporting programs you believe in at an organization that is important to your community.
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- ♦ Continue to receive the *Warbler* newsletter three times a year.

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your support.*

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☐ Renewing Member

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☐ I / we are interested in volunteering at Prairie Woods.

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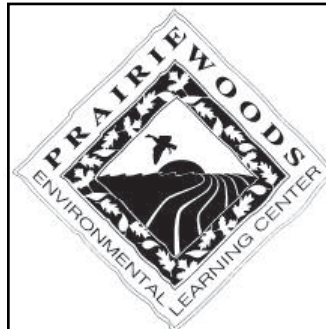
- ☐ \$100 to \$499
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12718 10th Street NE
Spicer, Minnesota 56288

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



PRAIRIE WOODS
Warbler



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ISSUE 1

BOARD MEMBERS 2013

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Jonathan Morales,
YES! Unit Coordinator,
Building & Grounds Steward
Danny Kulset,
Building & Grounds Assistant

You Are Invited!!

EARTH DAY 2014 - Green Cities Blue Waters

April 26, 2014 – 8:00 to 1:00 p.m

The Annual Earth Day Event has become a highlight of spring at Prairie Woods. Start off the day with a free pancake and pork sausage breakfast in the Westby Observatory from 8am-10am and then stroll down hill to take in the many exhibits, presentations and activities at the Education Building and Yurt.

Featured presentations this year will include the Minnesota Science Museum as well as a panel on Environmental Stewardship Success Stories. As always, the event will be family friendly and packed with activities for kids of all ages. Archery, rock-climbing, DNR Laser Shot, DNR live fish tank, re-cycled wire sculptures, scavenger hunt, tie-dye t-shirts, putt-putt golf and more are sure to provide highlights for the kids. Adults will find many interesting exhibits related to improving water quality, soil health, renewable energy, and tips for enjoying and protecting our natural resources. If you are interested in best management practices for agricultural or recreational lands & waters, Earth Day at Prairie Woods provides a one-stop shopping opportunity to talk with natural resource professionals, public officials, private citizens, and sportsmens groups who want to help.

Along with Prairie Woods, this event is sponsored by the Crow River Organization of Water, Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District, Kandiyohi SWCD, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and North Fork Crow River Watershed District, REDstar Creative, Jennie-O Turkey Store, MN Dairy Association, MN Pork Producers, Cash-Wise, the Youth Energy Summit (YES), and Cub Foods.

No-admission charge. Bring your friends and family! Please carpool to the event if possible.

First Ever Sleigh and Ski Festival at Prairie Woods attracts over 600.

Over 600 people enjoyed sleigh rides, Jennie-O chili, music by Cedar Creek, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, indoor rock-climbing, and exhibits at the Sleigh and Ski Festival held at PWELC on Sunday, February 7th. Fred & Joy Zwart along with Gary Stai first presented the idea of a sleigh festival last summer and then spent the ensuing six months preparing for this first ever event at Prairie Woods. It seemed like a natural fit to include the Sleigh Festival with our annual winter family fun day and so the Sleigh and Ski Festival was born. Many thanks to Fred & Joy Zwart and Gary & Kathy Stai along with their many friends who helped to put the event together.

Events like the Sleigh & Ski Fest are great opportunities for the community to gather for some good old-fashioned family fun. Hundreds of hours went into planning the event as well as hundreds of donated dollars to help pull everything together. Over fifty volunteers assisted with skiing, snowshoeing, climbing, parking detail & the chili feed and dozens of people contributed their time, sleighs and horse teams to make for a fantastic day.

It was great to have help from the Willmar Nordic Ski Team, Willmar Nordic Ski Club, and the New London-Spicer National Honor Society, all old hands of the Winter Family Fun Days held in the past, along with a whole host of new volunteers who brought the Sleigh Fest and chili feed to life under the direction of the Zwarts and Stais. Please check out the list of contributors and helpers listed on page nine and make a point of saying thanks to these generous folks when you see them in the community.



Bill & Bud driven by Fred & Joy Zwart at the Winter Sleigh & Ski Fest





Notes from the Executive Director

by Dave Pederson, Executive Director

Minnesota and Minnesotans seem to be defined by seasonal transitions. We relish the drama of our weather (or at least claim to) and the miraculous adaptations that we witness with the seasons. I am writing this on the first day of major melting this spring, if we can be bold enough to call it that. After a particularly cold winter we rejoice to venture out of the house sans long johns and stocking caps. We think, with some regret, about retiring the skis until next winter but our thoughts turn to sliding boats into the water and even the time when we can once again jump in for a swim. The ephemeral nature of life in Minnesota makes it all the sweeter. I marvel at being able to walk out my back door onto the ice of the Crow River and then only a few degrees later being able to slip a kayak into the water and go for a paddle.

Seasons are changing at Prairie Woods. We are putting away skis and trail grooming equipment and setting to work preparing our canoes, shooting range, challenge course and the like in preparation for the thousands of students who will be visiting us in April and May. The pasque flowers will be the first to poke through the snow and remind us that beautiful things are in the works. I hope that you can make a point of visiting Prairie Woods in all seasons to enjoy the changing nature of this beautiful place.

Thanks for taking the time to catch up on events and programs at “your” Prairie Woods. After checking out this newsletter please go to your calendars and plan to join us for all or some of the great events coming up. Thanks for all that you do for Prairie Woods!

Sincerely,
Dave



RAFFLE TICKETS!!

PWELC will once again be holding two fundraising raffles this year.

The first raffle will raise funds to support the annual Limited Special Hunt and youth programs at Prairie Woods. Tickets are \$5 each and the drawing will be held on June 6th. The second raffle will be drawn on the evening of Friday, Sept 5th at our Prairie Stars Event. You may win cash prizes up to \$500 and you are certain to help fund some great experiences for young and old alike at Prairie Woods.

Please call the Prairie Woods office (354-5894) if you would like to either purchase or help sell raffle tickets. Thanks!!

IT'S ALMOST TIME AGAIN FOR THE RECYCLED OUTDOOR GEAR SALE!!!

Feel great about reclaiming some of the space in your garage & closets by donating items for the Recycled Outdoor Gear



Sale. Please call (354-5894) to arrange pick-up or drop-off of donated items.

Join us on Saturday, June 21st from 8am-1pm for some great deals!

All proceeds support youth and family programs at Prairie Woods.

Upcoming Events at Prairie Woods

Earth Day 2014	Saturday, April 26 8am-1pm
JJM Victory Run	Saturday, June 21st 9am
Recycled Outdoor Gear Sale	Saturday, June 21st 8am-1pm
Paddle the CROW	June 7th (call for details)
Big Canoe at Sibley State Park	June 28
Full Moon Canoe	July 12
Little Crow Archers Bow Hunter 3D- 60 Event	August 9 & 10
Big Canoe at the New London Music Festival	August 16
PWELC Annual Meeting & Potluck	Monday, August 18th 5:30pm
Prairie Stars Fundraiser	Friday, Sept 5th, 2014

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



WINTER SLEIGH & SKI FESTIVAL 2014 CONTRIBUTORS

PLEASE SAY THANKS TO ALL OF THE KIND AND GENEROUS FOLKS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SLEIGH & SKI FESTIVAL

Jennie-O Turkey Store, Fred & Joy Zwart, Gary & Kathy Stai, Fladeboe Auctions, Little Crow 4H Club, Fladeboe Financial Services, Three Sisters, Frieda's Café, Miller Chiropractic Office, Amanda Lundgren Massage, Bruce & Vickie Vogt, Tom Anderson Law Office, Heritage Bank & Insurance, Mike & Roxanne Steffl, Mord's Hardware, Stai Trucking, Hillcrest Truck Stop, Citrus Systems Tom Boehland, Melissa Radel State Farm Insurance, United Farm Credit Services, First District Assoc., Hanson's Tire & Lube, Runnings Farm Store, Wetzel Harness, Cashwise Grocery, Cub Grocery, NL-S National Honor Society, Willmar Nordic Ski Team, Willmar Nordic Ski Club, Kandiyohi County, Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center, Lakes Area Review, West Central Tribune, Lakeland Broadcasting, Palmer Bus Service and dozens of friends of PWELC.

MWA HABITAT DAY- ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

The Prairie Pothole Chapter of the Minnesota Waterfowl Association continued the tradition of building wood duck nesting boxes at Prairie Woods. On March 1st, despite some fairly unfriendly winter weather, the event had a good turnout and 46 nesting boxes were constructed. Watching kids of all ages intently working with their parents and grandparents is a heartwarming site as they literally build memories, habitat and a love of the environment from a pile of cedar boards. A big thanks to the many dedicated members of the MWA Prairie Pothole Chapter for all of the great work. Special thanks to Roger Strand for providing a wonderful exhibit and sharing his expertise and enthusiasm for wood ducks and environmental stewardship.



FORKHORN CAMPS AT PRAIRIE WOODS

It is as close as you can get to deer camp in June. Camping out in tents under the stars, cooking your meals over a coleman stove, and learning the ways of the wiley whitetail. In addition to covering the MN DNR firearm safety curriculum in Forkhorn I and bow hunters safety in Forkhorn II we will also do some of the other fun activities that PWELC has to offer such as canoeing, climbing wall, and the flying squirrel. Each camper will also receive a years membership to their local Minnesota Deer Hunters Association at the completion of the week.

Forkhorn I camp starts Sunday, June 15 -19th.

Forkhorn II camp starts Sunday, June 22-26th.

If you know a youth ages 11-16 that may be interested (Sorry, Mr. Tetzloff this one is for the kids.) or if you have question about the camps contact Kory at PWELC.

PRAIRIE WOODS BENEFACTORS BUILD LEGACY CIRCLE INITIATIVE

In the past several months we have had two major gifts to the Sustainability Endowment Fund as well as several smaller but very important gifts. One anonymous donor informed us that he has listed Prairie Woods as a beneficiary of a \$10,000 life insurance policy. This is a tremendous way to give to Prairie Woods. Another couple has designated Prairie Woods as a beneficiary of a Lead Uni-trust which will contribute a portion of the interest generated from a Trust over a seven year period. At the end of seven years the Trust will go to the donors' children and the Prairie Woods Sustainability Endowment will have grown by over \$200,000. Fantastic! Other Friends of Prairie Woods have designated memorial funds as endowment gifts to Prairie Woods. Gifts in any amount are welcomed. Contributions in any amount are important as we build a fund that will continue working for generations to come.

If you have named Prairie Woods to receive a gift from your estate or would like to make a contribution to the endowment we would like to hear from you. Your generosity and concern for the future may help to inspire others to join the effort. The Sustainability Endowment will continue to grow and support the work of Prairie Woods far into the future.

News from the Challenge Course Welcome Steven Friedlein

A hearty welcome to Steven Friedlein who stepped into the role of Challenge Course Coordinator on March 17th. Steven has assisted with programs at PWELC for the past several years on a part-time basis and has earned the respect of staff, volunteers and students alike. We are very pleased to have Steven expand his role at Prairie Woods and we look forward to his contribution in the coming years. Steven grew up in Texas, where he completed a degree in environmental studies and accumulated a handful of years of great experience coordinating challenge course programs and river trips. Please make a point of welcoming Steven to his full-time position as Challenge Course Coordinator at Prairie Woods. Steven and his wife Mandy are the proud new parents of Wesley, who now has the distinction of being the youngest member of the Prairie Woods Baby Boom.



*EE Notes from Kory*

As I write this - the meteorologists are calling it spring although the calendar and the groundhog say we still have another couple weeks of winter left. The sun is shining, the temperature is 28 degrees, and the ski trails were freshly groomed last night. So, I don't know what to call it officially----besides

beautiful. We have just wrapped up our winter groups with a flurry of 600 kids from Hutchinson, KMS, Litchfield, Grace Home School, and a group of Girl Scouts who all had the opportunity to ski, snowshoe, and do other winter activities.

As you read this - the snow is melting (or hopefully HAS melted), maybe some grass or plants are trying to poke through, and we are getting geared up to get lots of kids outdoors over the next couple months. In addition to 7 full weeks of school groups coming out – there are plenty of other opportunities for people of all ages to participate in PWELC programs. Please give me a call to discuss program options for

schools, youth groups, families and adults. From the big canoe to the sporting clays range, from woodland adventures to wetland walkways and trails through the prairies, Prairie Woods has something for everyone.

Consider joining us for some of these upcoming programs or call to customize a program for your group (either on-site or outreach).

- *Firearm Safety Field Days – April 12th
- *EARTH DAY CELEBRATION – April 26th
- *Nature Day Camp – June 10th
- *Forkhorn I Camp (overnight firearm safety) June 15th
- *Forkhorn II Camp (overnight bow safety) June 22nd
- *Youth 3D bow hunt – June 27th
- *Big Canoe at Sibley State Park – June 28th
- *Full Moon Canoe – July 12th
- * Big Canoe at the New London Mill Pond for Music Fest – August 16th

Enjoy Spring and Summer with Prairie Woods!

Time Travel Updates By-Mari Klebe

Time to clean the dust from the cabin and jump into Spring!

The Time Travel program was established over ten years ago with support from Southwest Initiative Foundation, Pioneer Hybrid, and the American Swedish Institute; fueled by the enthusiasm of Trustee Wilt Croonquist and the restoration of the log cabin by Roger Strand, Pat Boros, Marc Reese, Christianson Brothers and many other volunteers.

Time Travel programs have earned accolades from teachers and students as “the best field trip ever,” and we are pleased to continue to offer the experience of a day in the life of the Anders Danielson Family in 1888. The full version of the Time Travel program includes a four hour experience where students spend a very special day preparing for the arrival from Sweden of Anders bride-to-be by doing chores of the day, learning Swedish songs and dances and preparing a tasty field lunch.

An attractive option for schools that may lack time, funding, or inclination to do the four hour program, is to incorporate a one hour Pioneer Cabin experience into their rotation of environmental education or challenge course programs.

Many schools and groups come to PWELC for a three to six hour session. In those hours they will often blend activities from the challenge course and environmental education. The Pioneer Cabin can fit in nicely too. In that hour students will dress like a pioneer, visit the cabin, and help with a few chores (wash clothes, beat rugs, saw wood, etc.) If a group would like to spend a bit more time at the cabin we will set up a series of stations that students can rotate through. Besides “chores” this could also include music and dance, a craft, games, story telling, planting/tending a garden, or many other pioneer activities. It's not a complete immersion, just a great taste of the pioneer experience.

This spring we are offering several Pioneer Cabin programs for all ages; “Spring at the Pioneer Cabin” for 2nd -6th graders, “Story Hour” for K-3rd, and “Midsommar Celebration” for families. Please take a look at these in our community education offering section.

As always, we want the programs to be accessible to everyone. One way we can keep costs down is with the help of volunteers. Prairie Woods has some amazing volunteers who assist with Time Travel programs but we would welcome more help! Please contact me (Mari) if you have an interest in working with the Time Travel program. Also, if you have stories from “back in the day,” I'd love to hear them. I'll bring the coffee and cookies and we can have a chat.

*Note from Deb* Deb Anderson- Challenge Course Coordinator

Life takes you many places but love brings you home. I am super excited to make my latest life change official. As of March 1 I will no longer be working full time. I will move into a new position at Prairie Woods that will be part time! I will still be around, still be doing programs and maybe even still be hanging out in the office to answer the phone once in awhile. I am SO excited and very confident that I leave the challenge course programs in the best of hands. You will be introduced to Steve Friedlein in this newsletter. He is a familiar face here at PWELC and is a fantastic guy. I know he will be a great addition to Prairie Woods. I am so happy to be able to still work for PWELC as I absolutely love it here. I love what I do, the people I work with and everything else about my job but I really do need a little more of my time to be freed up for my family as they continue to grow and change. Now that I will have more family time I will be able to continue to baby sit my grandkids a couple days a week, work on our farm a little more, be there for my and Dale's parents as they have had a few medical issues and whatever else life will throw at me. Life is good and I am blessed!!!

**THANKS DEB!**

A big thanks to Deb Anderson who is stepping down from a full-time position as Challenge Course Coordinator after a ten year term. Deb will be moving into a new phase as she continues to work part-time assisting with programs and operations at Prairie Woods while dedicating more time to her family over the next few years. We have appreciated Deb's hard work and enthusiasm for Prairie Woods and we look forward to her continued contributions as a part-time employee.

SITE UPDATES

- * The winter of 2013-14 was colder than those of recent memory. A spike in the price of propane prompted a look at our heating bills from the past eleven years. In 2003 PWELC heated entirely with propane and our bill was approximately \$12,000 for the year. In 2004 we started down the road toward a dream of operating entirely with renewable fuels, and ten years later, despite having increased our square footage another 25%, our cost for heating fuel (primarily wood pellets) was less than \$8000. Had we not converted our heating system our fuel costs for propane for this year probably would have exceeded \$36,000.
- * The solar air heating panel on the climbing room exterior wall, designed by John Duevel, continues to make us smile every cold sunny winter morning as the fans start to blow 80 degree air into the climbing room by 8:30am; often raising the temperature of the room 20 degrees by noon.
- * The Westby Building now features a Lopi high efficiency woodstove, that will reduce the amount of wood burned and provide increased comfort for groups in the Westby. Thanks to Lake Country Fireplace for providing a deep discount on the stove.
- * We are busy preparing for SPRING! The challenge course, trails, canoes, buildings, vehicles, canoe docks, wetland walkway, sporting clays range, log cabin and our beautiful 500 acre classroom all need some attention in preparation for the thousands of visitors scheduled for school visits and special events this Spring. Give us a call if you would like to help out with some of the 10,000 projects.

REMEMBER TO RUN WILD! YEAR 10!**JJM VICTORY RUN 2014**

Saturday, June 21st.

5K and 1mile Run/Walk on the trails at PWELC.

Registration 8am. 9am Start

Pre-registration reserves a t-shirt

\$15 pre-registration • \$20 same day

Walk-ins (& “Run-ins”)are welcome.

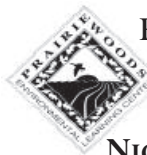
Check Prairie Woods Facebook and website for details.

Contact Deb Anderson if you would like to volunteer to help with the 10th Annual JJM Victory Run.

NEEDS AND GIVING OPPORTUNITIES AT PRAIRIE WOODS

- * Donations of Outdoor recreation equipment in good condition for the Recycled Outdoor Gear Sale- camping, boating, fishing, hunting, archery, all things outdoors.
- * Funds to purchase replacement cross country ski equipment- 20 sets @ \$100 per set
- * Volunteers to assist with trail work
- * Volunteers to assist the Prairie Stars planning committee
- * Donation of unique items for the Prairie Stars Silent Auction

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



NICE THINGS DONE FOR PRAIRIE WOODS BY PEOPLE LIKE YOU

- * Mike and Roxanne Steffl, Fladeboe Financial Services Inc., and Fred Zwart sponsored the music by Cedar Creek at the Sleigh & Ski Festival
- * Palmer Bus Service donated drivers and busses for two shuttle busses during the Sleigh and Ski Festival
- * Fladeboe Auctioneers donated a sound truck, and auction rock star Kristine Fladeboe Duininck provided color commentary for the sleigh parade
- * Stai Trucking donated time and equipment to clear snow for the Sleigh Fest
- * Fred & Joy Zwart and Gary & Kathy Stai contributed many hours and personal resources to the Sleigh & Ski Festival.
- * A huge thanks to the NLS National Honor Society, Willmar Nordic Ski Team, Willmar Nordic Ski Club & Little Crow 4H for assisting with the Sleigh & Ski event.
- * Hans & Janet Dahl donated funds for library materials
- * 14 Governing Board members meet on a monthly basis to keep PWELC on track and headed into the future.
- * Lake Country Fireplace & Exteriors provided a deep discount on a new Lopi woodstove for the Westby Building.
- * Prairie Woods staff spent many hours working on ski trails and clearing snow for the hundreds/thousands of skiers who enjoyed the trails this winter.
- * Terry Myllenbeck donated 7 solar panels and battery chargers for the automatic clay target throwers at the sporting clays range.
- * Thanks Lakes Area Review for the great pictures, articles and public service announcements.
- * Thanks West Central Tribune, especially Ron Adams and Tom Cherveney for providing excellent coverage of PWELC events and YES! workshops and accomplishments.
- * Thanks to Lakeland Broadcasting & especially Paul Stagg for helping to inform the public about programs and special events at Prairie Woods.

SLEIGH AND SKI FESTIVAL BY THE NUMBERS

- 600** -bowls of chili served by Vickie Vogt & Crew
- 400** -number of skiers, climbers and snowshoers during a 4 hour time period
- 14** -sleighs, w/ teams and drivers all donated services for the day
- 2** -shuttle busses and drivers donated by Palmer Bus Service
- 80+** -Number of volunteers who assisted with activities, parking, chili feed, & sleigh rides
- 2 tons** -Weight of Fred Zwart's team of draft horses Bill & Bud
- 240** pounds of chili donated by Jennie-O Turkey Store
- 20** pounds of cheese donated by First District of Litchfield



THANK YOU PWELC MEMBERS!! WINTER RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERS

LIFETIME MEMBERS-- Dennis & Ruthanne Neeser

BENEFACTOR MEMBERS

Daniel & Cheryl Rauenhorst, Carmen Rohne, Louise Thoma,
Jim Smith & Cindy Firken-Smith, Tom & Phyllis Jacobson,
Ron & Loretta Holmgren, Northern States Supply,
Joel & Cathy Halbritter, David & Florence Klein, Bill Taunton Sr.,
Jeff & Patty Olson, Thomas & Julie DeBoer, Karen Schneider,
Robert & Judy Snook, Dr. Stephen & Jean Hersh,
Dr. Jim and Marilyn Tiede

FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

Gary & Carla Lagerstedt, Troy & Pam Haverly,
Fred & Katy Hund, Michael & Sandra Gardner,
Eric & Marilee Vogel, M.E. & Linda Mickelson, Mike Bundy,
Richard & Bridget Hage, Wallace & Donna Gustafson,
Norris & Janice Anderson, John & Mary Lindstrom,
Jerome & Elaine Schliep, Scott & Kristi Glup,
Lester & Nancy Feia, Daryll Emery & Kristin Lee,
Don & Jean Holmgren, Dr. Terry & Margaret Peterson,
David & Janis Schlack, Tim Williams, Betty Rustad,
Glen & Peggy Wilson, Fred Gould, Tim Thein,
Rick & Jody Loseth, Skip & Cheryl Wright, Troy Engebretson,
Margie & Paul Rock, Tim & Tammi Joy Parsons,
Connie Stahnke, Celeste Voorhees, Bill & Janne Gossman

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Orlo Almlie, Carole Vennerstrom, Charlotte Mars,
Helaine Bolter, Mary Hinderaker-Jacobson, Paul Avels-Taylor,
Joann & Jeff Danielson, Scott Bennett



YES! Updates - Jonathan Morales and Shelli-Kae Foster

The innovations and solutions of tomorrow are in the minds of today's youth. Communities with YES! teams are continually benefiting from this youthful energy. Throughout the last few years YES! teams have developed an impressive track record and this is allowing them to accomplish bigger and better projects. A growing number of school administrations are realizing the potential of YES! to make substantial contributions to their schools and trusting them to do a good job while doing it.

One way YES! is preparing teams for success is through customized Winter Workshops that cover everything from Super-mileage cars to cold climate greenhouses. This winter we flew off the starting line with a workshop geared to help the Glencoe-Silver Lake and Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa High School YES! teams prepare for the annual Minnesota Technology and Engineering Educator's Association Supermileage Challenge. As with most YES! projects, many different parts come together to make it a success. In the first winter workshop, YES! students got to work with a 3-D printer, learn about ethanol, understand the importance of fund-raising, and even got a taste of automotive engineering. Next stop was Mankato. At this workshop students covered lots of ground touring the wastewater treatment plant in Mankato, learning about composting with Full Circle Organics, talking with Southeast Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) Coordinator Michelle Palm about energy initiatives, and touring the Mankato Courtyard Marriott, the first LEED certified hotel in Minnesota. Thirty students attended this workshop and went back to their schools and communities with a new understanding of waste and energy.

With two great workshops down and two to go YES! teams took a trip over to St. John's University to explore the power of the sun! Here 40 students from 3 YES! teams learned that yes, wind turbines do need the sun. Dan Backes with Blattner Energy did a great job explaining all the different areas that have to come together for wind turbines to work and did an interesting demonstration using two students and two wind turbine models to help demonstrate ideal locations for turbines. Students also got to tour the St. John's Solar Array Farm, which provides 3% of the campus's electricity. Excited about solar, students learned about Community Solar Gardens from Joel Haskard with CERTs. After a stop to refuel at the St. John's food court the students were off to meet with the SJU/CSB Sustainability Alliance Club and brainstorm about their projects. Last but not least students took on building their own solar ovens using pizza boxes and even got some solar s'mores to top it all off!

YES! FUN FACT- 600,000 & Counting!

Over the past several years YES! Teams have installed 36 hydration stations in their schools which have prevented the equivalent of 600,000 20 oz. single use containers from entering the waste stream (data compiled from counters on the hydration units). 600,000 20oz bottles are enough to fill 2,507 standard wheelbarrows (5 cubic feet); which if the wheelbarrows were placed end to end would stretch for 2.4 miles. WOW! Say YES!

"Every one of you is a spot of light and creative potential to change Western Minnesota through harvesting the sun."

This quote by Audrey Arner of Moonstone Farm set the tone for the Local Foods YES! Winter Workshop in Milan Minnesota. Humans bump along to a rhythm created and necessitated by our environment. As we diverge from this rhythm things get all out of whack. This workshop set out to bring students closer to the food they eat and understand why that is important. One could feel the energy in the air with the Lac qui Parle and New London-Spicer YES! teams already harvesting greens from their winter greenhouses inspired by last year's local foods workshop and Yellow Medicine East soon to be breaking ground on their own. With the goal of improving their greenhouses and exposing some new teams to winter greenhouses, the group made stops at Carol Ford's greenhouse where this style of cold-weather greenhouse all began, Tim and Shelly Ellington's greenhouse (Elk's Bluff), an active CSA, and finally, Lac qui Parle School where the YES! team showcased their own greenhouse.

There will be a total of 6 YES! Winter Workshop this season with two more workshops still on the horizon. The two workshops still to come will focus on lunchroom waste and another dedicated to learning about community supported agriculture. As we wrap up this season students will be preparing to present their work to a panel of judges that will award dollars towards future projects that will no doubt lead to more fun and inspiring workshops next year!

It is hard to describe the work being done by YES! students as anything but great! Greatness is not just something that just appears. Greatness is a decision to do great things and this is what YES! is setting out to do!

YES! is supported in part by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative Citizen Commission on Natural Resources. Major funding and staff support for YES! has been provided by our program partner Southwest Initiative Foundation since 2007. Pending final approval by the Minnesota State Legislature, YES! will mobilize 40 YES! teams in southwest, southeast, central and northeast MN during 2014-2016. Contact Jonathan Morales or Shelli-Kae Foster if you would like to help start a YES! team in your community.





APRIL 26th · 8am - 1pm

prairie woods environmental learning center · 12718 10th st ne, spicer · 320.354.5894 · prairiewoodselc.org

- 8:00am - 10:00am · Pancake Breakfast (free-will)
- 8:00am - 1:00pm · Kids Activities & Exhibits
- 10:15am · Performance: "Water" - Science Museum of MN
- 11:30am · Performance: "Water" - Science Museum of MN

Attractions for Kids & Adults:

"Water" by the Science Museum of MN · Water Quality Information · Educational Activities · Live Reptiles · Live Predatory Birds · Info Booth · DNR Laser Shot · Mini Putt Putt · Archaeology Exhibits · Tie Dying · Scavenger Hunt · Climbing Wall

Event Organizers:



Event Sponsors: Jennie-O · Mn Dairy Association · Mn Pork Producers · Hawk Creek Watershed District · Cash Wise · REDstar Creative

***PLEASE POST**



PWELC COMMUNITY EDUCATION OFFERINGS SPRING 2014

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: April 26th

Time: 8:00-1:00pm

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 10, 11, 12

Tues-Thurs, July 8, 9, 10

Time: 8:30am-11:30am

Cost: \$55

3D DEER ARCHERY SHOOTGrades: 5th

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 27

Time: 9a-Noon

Cost: \$15

FULL MOON CANOE

Come with your friends & 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.

Date: Sat, July 12

Time: 7:30p-9:30p

Cost: \$7 per person.

~TIME TRAVEL PROGRAMS~

SPRING AT THE PIONEER CABIN....

Ages: 2nd– 6th grade

There’s so much to be done to prepare for summer. Help the Pioneers say goodbye to winter by preparing the garden, doing some wash, cutting wood, and sprucing up the cabin. After all that hard work there might be time to play some games and make a toy to bring home.

Date: Friday, April 11

Time: 4 – 5:45 pm

Cost: \$8 per person

STORY HOUR AT THE PIONEER CABIN

Ages: K-3rd

Come to the Pioneer Cabin at Prairie Woods! Dress as a pioneer and listen to a story about the Ingalls family and what pioneer life was like. We will take a page out of the book and do an activity that Laura did. Kids, ask your parents if they want to come too!

Date: Monday, April 28

Time: 3:45 - 5:00 pm

Cost: \$4.50 per child (adults free)

MIDSOMMAR CELEBRATION

Ages: All (children younger than 5th grade must be with an adult)

Bring the whole family to find your Swedish roots. Join in this most important Swedish holiday of music, dancing, and ice cream. First we’ll dress as pioneers. Then after learning a bit about this area’s Swedish settlers we’ll churn some ice cream, decorate with flowers, and let the party begin with music and dancing.

Date: Friday, June 20

Time: 6-8pm

Cost: \$6 per person (max \$18 for family)

BIRTHDAY PARTIES AT THE LOG CABIN

Looking for a unique idea for a birthday party? Why not celebrate your birthday like a pioneer? Dress as a pioneer and play games from the 1800s. We’ll even make a toy to bring home. Choose from a variety of activities including making ice cream. Call PWELC at 320-354-5894 to plan your pioneer birthday party!

