



**PRAIRIE WOODS  
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER**

12718 10th St. NE  
Spicer MN 56288  
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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.*

**PRAIRIE WOODS ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER**

*Annual Membership for 2017*

*Join Us!*

- ☐ New Member  
☐ Renewing Member

**SUPPORTER'S MEMBERSHIP**

- ☐ Individual Membership ..... \$25.00  
☐ Family Membership ..... \$40.00  
☐ Donation of \_\_\_\_\_ amount to the Sustainability Endowment  
☐ I / we are interested in volunteering at Prairie Woods.

**BENEFACTOR'S MEMBERSHIP**

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

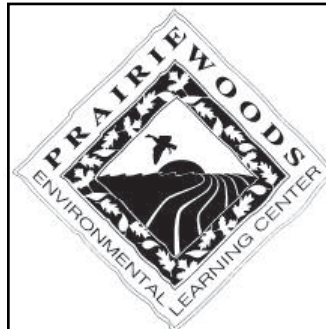
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Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center  
12718 10th Street NE  
Spicer, Minnesota 56288

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

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**PRAIRIE WOODS**

*Warbler*



VOLUME 29

WINTER 2016

ISSUE 3

**BOARD MEMBERS 2016**

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Steven Friedlein,  
Challenge Course Coordinator  
Cameron Kalkbrenner,  
Program Facilitator  
Mari Klebe, Office Manager  
Shelli-Kae Foster  
YES! Grant Project Leader  
Danny Kulset,  
Building & Grounds  
Ali Dahmes,  
YES! Coordinator

***PARTY IN THE PAVILION!- THE EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING!!!***

Bids were opened on Nov. 29th and, by the time this newsletter is in the mail, a contractor will be selected to meet a completion deadline of June 1, 2017 for the construction of a pavilion at the PWELC farm site. Kandiyohi County Public Works did a great job of preparing the base for the pavilion this fall and the site is ready for construction to begin. We want to thank the many folks who helped to initiate the funding of this project including Kandiyohi County, Willmar Area Community Foundation, Cindy Westby bequest, Charles and Sharon Olson, Louise Thoma, MN Waterfowl Association, Jim and Colleen Thompson Michels, Wally Gustafson, Kenneth & Alix Behm, Kazue Jones, Paul & Sandy Vollan, Dennis & Ruthanne Neeser, DeeDee Johnson, John & Mary Lindstrom, Steve & Nancy Linder and a host of others to be recognized when we Party in the Pavilion next summer.

The 4800 square foot pavilion will shelter programs in inclement weather, provide a great venue for special event rentals and provide winter storage for valuable equipment like our big canoe and portable climbing wall. The design includes a vaulted ceiling which will allow us to set up our portable climbing wall indoors! Our staff, students and board members are very excited to add this unique structure at the PWELC farm site.

*There is still a need and opportunity for you to help buy a piece of the pavilion as we close out our remaining fundraising need of approximately \$30,000. If you or your organization would like to join us in completing the pavilion please contact Dave Pederson or one of the PWELC board members today.*

***MUSIC UNDER THE PRAIRIE STARS 2016-  
A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT, A GREAT CROWD, AND  
ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER***

We want to send a big shout of THANKS! to our Prairie Stars committee and all of the wonderful sponsors, and guests who made the 2016 event a resounding success. Music by the High 48s, delicious local food prepared by Chef Monte and crew from the Green Mill and a boisterous and generous crowd made for a great evening. The



committee this year included: Jim Tetzloff (chair), Beth Anderson, Mary Merlin, Mari Klebe, Amy Denz and Dave Pederson. We were honored and delighted to have Lakeland Broadcasting and Jennie-O Turkey Store return as Underwriting Sponsors along with the PWELC Trustees. Please check out the sponsor and donor list on the following pages and make a point of thanking those folks when you see them in the community.



***SAVE the Date(s)***

Tommy Swenson Memorial Ice Fishing Tournament (*Spicer American Legion*) ..Saturday, Feb. 4th, 9am-noon  
4th Annual Winter Sleigh and Ski Festival.....Sunday, Feb. 12th, 11am-4pm  
The LORAX & More.....Thursday, March 2nd, 4-5:30pm  
EARTH DAY 2017 & Recycled Outdoor Gear Sale .....Saturday, April 22nd, 8am-1pm





*Notes from the Executive Director*

by Dave Pederson, Executive Director

*Seasons Greetings and Merry Christmas!* Thanks to people like you, this newsletter is filled with news of gifts received and gifts given. I want to start by passing along some thank you notes that we have received for programs and experiences that your gifts help to make possible.

We are often amused, surprised and touched by thank you notes received from our students. Here are a few recent quotes from thank you notes written to you and our staff by 2nd grade students from Kennedy Elementary. I couldn't replicate the handwriting but I have left the original spelling:

*"thank you for teching me on the hick that wus the funest hick I ever wint to before",*  
*"thank you for teching me about trees and weds and a paper wasp and pioneer life and deer antlrs and how the deer*  
*can scratch the trees to inpress the grils deer",*  
*"what I liked best was seeing the dead mouse and smooshing the beans",*  
*"it was the best day my live and olso my favorit part was going on a hike. I wish I was their in next Monday because I Love going in a hike."*  
*"Dear PrairieWoods Staff,*  
*Thank you so much for the wonderful field trip last week. My class was completely engaged the entire time and that almost never happens.*  
*I was so impressed with your knowledge and enthusiasm. This trip was well worth it and we hope to see you again next year! "*  
*Rachel Dunlavy, 2nd Grade teacher, Kennedy Elementary.*

**Fun to read but serious, too. Thank you for helping us to guide kids on "the funnest hike ever," and provide "the best day of my life,"** to kids that otherwise may never have the opportunity. **Good things don't just happen. We need you to help make them happen-** every day at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center.

I invite you to enjoy catching up on some of the news in this edition of the Warbler and I encourage you take the next step today to support and enjoy our work. Come out to ski or hike the trails. Join us for the Sleigh & Ski Fest, volunteer to help with programs or projects, and please support our work with a membership gift or endowment contribution.

Thank you for joining us in the work and "Serious Fun" at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center. Together we are helping kids learn to live well with self, others and the environment.... Every day at Prairie Woods!

*Dave***SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS-MUSIC UNDER THE PRAIRIE STARS 2016**

Acme Comedy Club, Aesthetics, Build-A-Bear Workshop, Carol VandeVen, Casey's General Store, Chef Monte, Chicago Cubs, Cindy Ohl, Coleman, Columbia, Conway Dueth & Schmiesing, PLLP, Dan Mondloch, Dangerous Man Brewing Company, Distressed Treasures, Do It Green, Earth Easy, Elmquist Jewelers, Fair Winds Salon & Day Spa, Green Mill, Happy Sol, Heritage Bank, House of Comedy, Jim Tetzloff, Joe Bee Honey, John & Mary Lindtrom, Kandiyohi County AreaYMCA, Karla Nelson, LeRoy Dahlke, Lettuce Entertain You, Little Crow Golf Club, Mall of America, Mary Kay consultant Sarah Nelson, Melitta, Middle Fork Watershed District, Mike Bundy, Mill Pond Mercantile, MN Vikings, MN Wild, MN Zoo, Myron VandeVen, Ordway Theater, Pam Melander, Pat Walsh-Atwater Ford, Pheseants Forever, Pioneer Heritage, Prairie Pothole Chanpter of the MN Waterfowl Assoc., Radisson Blu, Rambow, Schuler Shoes, Science Museum of MN, Shoppe 14, Slumberland, Smitty Luschen, Spicer Castle, Stacy's Nursery, Stages Theatre Company, Swan Lake Honey, The Barn Theatre, The Country Stop, The Giving Tree, The Middle Fork Café, TimeWorn Wood in Atwater, Tracy Bjork, Vertical Edndeavors, Walt's in Willmar, Wayne & Linda Nelson, Wild Mountain at Taylor's Falls

*Thank you to everyone that donated a Silent Auction item and made a Silent Auction purchase. Because of your generosity we were able to raise over \$5,000 through the silent auction!*

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

*Over the years, Willmar Area Community Foundation has supported many important projects for PWELC including the portable climbing wall, challenge course equipment, the yurt, indoor climbing wall, wetland walkway, xc ski equipment, a truck for outreach programs, and most recently a \$30,000 grant for the pavilion project. How cool is that?!!!! We are extremely grateful for the support of the Willmar Area Community Foundation.*

**YES! UPDATES**

-Ali Dahmes YES! Unit Coordinator

**New West Central Coordinator** - My name is Ali Dahmes and I grew up in New London, MN on a small hobby farm. After graduation, I took off for college around the country and then across the globe to pursue my love of animals and nature. Four years later I completed a bachelor's degree in Zoology that I acquired from Oklahoma City (OK), Willmar (MN), Mankato (MN), and Queensland (Australia). I am very passionate about traveling and experiencing different environments. I also have a passion to get younger generations outside and exploring for themselves what nature has to offer which is how I ended up at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center (PWELC) after graduation. I have been working at PWELC for almost a year facilitating Environmental Education and Challenge Course programs. The PWELC and YES! connection has led me to my current position as a YES! coordinator. YES! has provided me with the opportunity to provide teams with the resources to help conserve the nature that I have loved all my life.

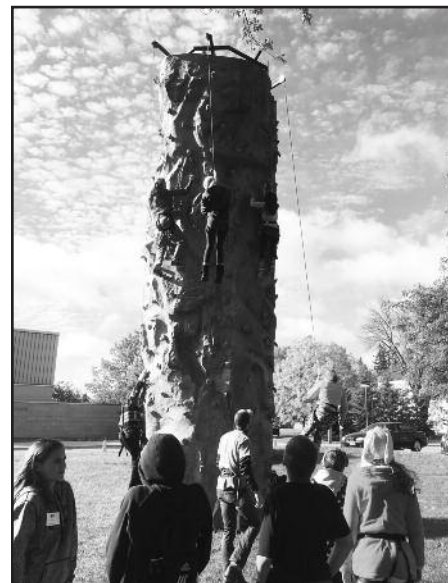
**Fall Summit** - Over 200 students and coaches from 16 Youth Energy Summit (YES!) teams from central and southern Minnesota participated in the 10th Annual Fall Summit, held this year at Saint John's University. Students participated in sessions like

"Measuring Your Project's Success," "FUNdraising 101," "Intro for New Teams/Students," and "Project Sharing" that connected them with peers, engaged them in tools for success, and demonstrated funding ideas as they head into the 2016-17 YES! season.

The theme for this year's Fall Summit was "Say YES! to Youth-Led Water Solutions." YES! was fortunate to have Dr. Kate Brauman, Lead Scientist for the Global Water Initiative at the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment, present a keynote address on "Why Global Water Matters". Two of the big hits with students at the summit this year were the climbing wall and 34-foot Voyageur canoe. YES! was also fortunate to have regional experts, Jon Morales from the Middle Fork Crow Watershed District and Mark Haugen and Cassidy Martin from the University of Minnesota 4H Extension, assist with sessions.

Please check out [youthenergysummit.org](http://youthenergysummit.org) to stay current with upcoming YES! winter workshops and learn more about some of the great accomplishments of our YES! teams.

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

**WRIGHT AND STEARNS COUNTY PARKS PROJECT-**

PWELC has just signed a contract to provide outdoor recreation and environmental education programs over the next two years in the beautiful parks of Wright and Stearns County. With the ink still drying on the contract we are jumping into planning a series of at least thirty programs, 15 in Wright County and 15 in Stearns County over the next two years.

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

This project is made possible through a grant obtained by Wright and Stearns Counties from the Greater MN Parks and Trails Commission with funds provided from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. Be sure to check out the PWELC Facebook page for upcoming events in Wright and Stearns County.



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



*Time Travel* - Mari Klebe

Summer and fall of 2016 had all ages traveling back in time to 1888. Green Lake Lutheran Ministries held a senior retreat that spent the afternoon at the Pioneer Cabin. Stories and memories were shared about “Grandma’s Cabin” over coffee, pie and homemade whipped cream. They also weren’t afraid to get to work de-kerneling corn and sawing wood.

**CALL FOR EXHIBITORS: WINTER SLEIGH & SKI FEST AND EARTH DAY 2017**

Give us a call if you would like to share a winter hobby, sport or craft at the Winter Sleigh & Ski Festival. Past exhibits have included fly-tying, darkhouse angling, woodworking, soapmaking, woodcarving, curling, bee keeping, cider press, home brewing, xc skiing and more. Show your stuff and help others brighten up their winter with healthy sports and hobbies.

*It is also not too early to sign up to exhibit at EARTH DAY 2016. Call Dave or Mari at 320-354-5894.*

**THANK OUR PRAIRIE STARS! FUND-A-NEED LIVE AUCTION DONORS.**

A high point of the 2016 Prairie Stars evening was watching the Prairie Stars Fund-A-Need Donors raise over \$15,000 in about 5 minutes, guided by Kristine Fladeboe-Duninck, to help PWELC purchase a vehicle needed for our expanding outreach programs!!! Thank our Prairie Stars!!! These contributions are in addition to event tickets and sponsorships.

**\$2,500**

Charles & Sharon Olson

**\$1,000**

DeeDee Johnson, Steve & Nancy Linder, John & Mary Lindstrom, Jim & Colleen Michels, Dennis & Ruthanne Neeser, New London-Spicer Area Foundation

**Up to \$500**

Gary & Nancy Geiger, Ron & Kay Halvorson, Bob & Connie Hodapp, Ella Meyerson, Barb & Wilson Salter, Myron & Carol Van de Ven

**Up to \$250**

Bruce Behm, Matthew Behm, Mike & Linda Bundy, Ron & Dee Erpelding, Kendall & Douglas Fenster, Cindy Firkens Smith, Fred & Kathy Hund, Thomas & Lynn Johnson, Wayne & Linda Nelson, Dr. Rachel Tollefsrud

**Up to \$100**

Kevin & Melanie Crowley, Tina Erpenbach, Joseph & Emily Groshens, Kevin & Sandy Hanson, Ann Hogan & Ross Sibley, Craig & Lori Holmgren, Roger Imdieke, Margaret Johnson, Glenn & Kelly Klebe, Richard & Betty Larson, Tim Minter, David Moody & Mary Catherwood, Rollie & Glenda Nissen, Elizabeth & Harley Pakola, Mary Sawatzky, Denise & Tim Smith, Lynn & Gary Skordahl, Jim & Terry Tetzloff, Vickie Vogt, Deb & Dale Anderson, Alan & Lori Dietz, Robert & Patti Dols, Gary & Cheryl Kulset, James & Laura Molenaar, Melissa Sorenson

*Thank You*

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

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

**2016 Pinnacle Summary:** In 2016, the Prairie Woods Pinnacle (26 ½' Mobile Rock Climbing Wall) traveled to a number of events throughout our area. The Pinnacle was a big hit at large events such as Prairie Pothole Day where 700 participants climbed in one day and also made weekly trips to Green Lake Bible Camp throughout the summer to do programming with their campers. One of the new events we took part in was the Rockin' Robbin Concert Series at Robbins Island in Willmar where we had over 200 climbers each time. Another new event in 2016 was Bonanza Valley Day's where the Pinnacle was set up in downtown Brooten and attracted over 300 climbers. **Many thanks** to our major donors for the Pinnacle Project including: **Jennie-O Turkey Store, Willmar Area Community Foundation, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Roger & Kay Strand, Cindy Westby bequest and Prairie Stars donors.**

**2016 Challenge Course Summary:** The PWELC Challenge Course hosted groups from many parts of Minnesota in 2016. Many groups returned for their annual visit, while others experienced Prairie Woods for the first time. Each group arrived with their own set of goals and intentions for their customized program. We accommodated groups of all sizes and

ages. Some of the programs were very large, like the FFA Region 5 Fall Greenhands Day where 250 participants had the opportunity to challenge themselves on our course doing High Elements and Teambuilding. The challenge course and mobile climbing wall touched over 10,000 kids this year. Each one of those kids experienced a challenge and received encouragement to do their best. They laughed, they cheered, grunted with effort and shouted out encouragement to their classmates and teammates. Thanks for making it happen.

*Look for the Prairie Woods Pinnacle at community events throughout the area in 2017.*

*Remember that we offer teambuilding programs and climbing on our indoor wall throughout the winter. Contact us anytime to schedule programs for your group.*

**SOME OF THE NICE THINGS DONE FOR PRAIRIE WOODS BY PEOPLE LIKE YOU!**

**Joel Johnson** donated time to consult on site development for the pavilion project

**Louise Thoma-** \$5,000 gift for the pavilion project in memory of Ben Thoma

**Kandiyohi County Public Works-** completed pavilion site prep and coordinated the bid process.

**United Way of West Central MN-** has been a steadfast supporter of PWELC for many years. Thanks to all for supporting your local United Way!

**New London Spicer Area Fund of the Willmar Area Community Foundation-** Donated \$30,000 toward the pavilion project! Wow!!

**New London-Spicer Area Foundation-** donated \$1000 toward the purchase of a vehicle needed for outreach programs!

**Terry Myllenbeck** donated trail signage for the special hunts and ski trails.

**Chad Lien, Jim Tetzloff, Lee Thompson, Claudia Thompson, Jeremy Lowsinski, John Ulman, Todd Marxhausen,**

**Dustin Parker, Troy Heck, Mike Bundy, Mike Mastey, Kathy Lutz, Matt Holland, Karl Sands, Nate**

**Grotelueschen, Ali Dahmes, Cameron Kalkbrenner, Frank Rezac, and Jeff Denz** helped w/ the shooting range and/or firearm safety.

**Myra Quale** donated items for Time Travel

**Dean Mortenson, Danielle Steffen and Genelle Grund** volunteered for Time Travel programs.

**Sara Carlson, Theresa Hillis and Doug Allen** helped out w/ the portable climbing wall at Rockin' Robbin.





*Home On The Range* - Kory Klebe

This was a busy year for shooting sports at PWELC. Over 30 groups used the Gary Westby Shooting range this season including: conservation groups, families, businesses, and churches. In addition to these groups there were also several handicapped accessible hunts for deer and turkeys, two youth hunts at PWELC, the Bowhunter 3D-60 archery event, and two field and range days which are required for completion of DNR firearm safety certification

Two youth hunting traditions continued at PWELC. Pheasants Forever conducted a Youth/Mentor hunt this fall and one youth from the MDHA Forkhorn I Camp was drawn to participate in the fall limited special hunt at PWELC. This year Jimmy Miller from New London was drawn as the lucky camper to participate in the PWELC special deer hunt.

Here is a note from Jimmy Miller – a 2016 MDHA Forkhorn I graduate:

*"I was excited this summer when my parents asked me if I wanted to attend the MDHA Forkhorn I Camp at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center (PWELC). I had never been deer hunting before or shot a shot gun and it sounded like fun. I was able to learn about gun safety and earn my firearm safety certificate. I also learned hunting skills like how to set up deer stands and outdoor survival skills like which plants are edible.*

*As part of the camp, I was lucky enough to be drawn for a special hunt at PWELC in November. I liked riding out to hunting blinds with the volunteers in the ATVs. I also liked waiting for deer in different blinds with my Dad. I was excited when a doe popped up in front of our blind and was able to shoot my first deer. I am very thankful for all of the volunteers who helped me. They showed me how to field dress my deer and brought it back to camp with us. I am also very grateful for a special buck knife that one of the other hunters, Cal, gave me. It was his when he was a boy. It was an amazing first deer hunt."*

The 2016 Limited Special Hunt enjoyed another very successful season harvesting seven deer this year. Hats off to Ryan Newville, Dave Muetzel and all the other volunteers.

**Sponsors**- West Central Steel, Home Depot, West Central Roofing, Kandiyohi Sheriff Dept., Willmar Police Dept., Kandiyohi Roofing, Larry’s Power Sports, Green Lake Trailer, Spicer American Legion, Spicer Sons of American Legion, Scheels, and Jennie-O Turkey Store



**PRAIRIE RESTORATION EFFORTS AT PWELC**



Less than 1% of Minnesota’s original native prairie remains, making places like the native prairie at PWELC a special and rare place. Through efforts coordinated by PWELC Governing Board member, Scott Glup, a contractor was hired with funding from the Minnesota State Prairie Plan to mechanically remove woody invasives such as cedar and sumac along the ridge north of the wind turbine. On Saturday, September 24th, in conjunction with National Public Lands Day, MN Master Naturalists coordinated a native prairie restoration project to help follow-up after the contractor. About 25 people came out to cut, haul, and stack sumac and cedar from the prairie and also to help collect and reseed native prairie plants. This event was part of a continuing effort to restore the site through prescribed burning and selective cutting of woody vegetation. A number of once common and now uncommon native wildflowers will benefit from these efforts as well as other declining species such as native pollinators and monarchs. These efforts help to keep “the Prairie” in Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center.

**THANK OUR PRAIRIE STARS SPONSORS**

**Event Underwriters \$2500-** Jennie-O Turkey Store, Lakeland Broadcasting, PWELC Board of Trustees  
**Eco-Sponsors \$1000-** Affiliated Community Medical Center, Jeff & Sue Danielson, Family Practice Medical Center, DeeDee Johnson  
**Prairie Partners \$500-** Harvest Bank, Heritage Bank, Home State Bank, Lake Region Bank, John & Mary Lindstrom, Northern States Supply, Dennis & Karen Peterson, Roger & Kay Strand, Louise Thoma in Memory of Ben Thoma, West Central Chapter of MN Darkhouse & Angling Assoc.  
**Voyagers \$250-** Douglas Allen, Bremer Bank & Bremer Wealth Management, Conway, Dueth & Schmiesing, PLLP, Dave Pederson & Ruth Fairchild, Robert & Patti Dols, Dooley’s Petroleum, Inc., Duininck Companies, Larry & Pauline Duininck, ECAD Engineering, Ron & Dee Erpelding, Kendall & Douglas Fenstra, John & Karin Gilbertson, Bob & Constance Hodapp, Robert & Patricia Kaiser, Pat & Mary Laib, Lakes Area Dental, Mary Merlin, Northern Factory Sales, Pioneer Heritage Insurance, LLC,, Denise & Tim Smith, Three Sisters Furnishing, LLC, West Central Tribune  
**Prairie Stars Planning Committee**-Beth Anderson, Amy Denz, Mari Klebe, Mary Merlin, Dave Pederson, Jim Tetzloff, *Special thanks to Laura Nelson & Amanda Toutges - our decorating committee*



**PWELC COMMUNITY EDUCATION OFFERINGS  
WINTER/SPRING 2015**

**INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING GYM.....ALL AGES**

Climbing offers a chance to challenge yourself both physically and mentally. 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 main building).

**Date:** Thursday, Jan. 5 • Thursday, Jan. 19  
**Thursday, Feb. 9 • Thursday, March 16**  
**Time:** 4:00-5:30pm  
**Cost:** \$10/ climber for each class

**STORY HOUR AT  
THE PIONEER CABIN .....Grades: 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. This will be a different story from our other Story Hours. Kids, ask your parents if they want to come too! (Meet at Farmsite)

**Date:** Tuesday, Jan. 17 • Thursday, Feb. 23  
**Tuesday, March 7**  
**Time:** 4:00- 5:15 pm  
**Cost:** \$5/child for each class

**PIONEER WINTER SURVIVAL .....Grades: 3rd – 6th**

Do you have what it takes to survive a Minnesota winter pioneer style? Come to the 1888 cabin, dress as a pioneer, help saw wood, make candles, learn how to build a fire with flint and steel, try snow shoeing and warm up by the fire with some hot apple cider. (Meet at Farmsite)

**Date:** Tuesday, Feb. 7  
**Time:** 4:00 – 6:00 pm  
**Cost:** \$14

**SNOWSHOEING .....Grades: 4th and up**

Arctic Adventure or at least Prairie Wood’s version. On snowshoes, you can explore “off the beaten path” and beyond the trails. Enjoy this magical adventure through quiet woods and hills, while watching for tracks and signs of our animal neighbors. Instruction and all equipment provided. (Meet at main building).

**Date:** Tuesday, Jan. 31 • Tuesday, Feb. 28  
**Time:** 4:00-5:30PM  
**Cost:** \$8/ person

**INTRO TO CROSS  
COUNTRY SKIING.....Grades: 2nd and up**

Don’t let the snow keep you inside all winter long. Come learn the basics of cross country skiing. Then hit the trails to practice your new skills. Instruction and equipment provided. (Meet at main building)

**Date:** Tuesday, Jan. 24 • Thursday, Feb. 2  
**Time:** 4:00-5:30  
**Cost:** \$8

**\*\*\* All Winter!!!! \$5 ski rentals for students and  
Prairie Woods ELC members\*\*\***

**LORAX AND MORE.....Ages: All – Families Welcome**

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!!! Watch a presentation of Dr. Seuss’s The Lorax presented by the Prairie Woods Puppet Theatre while you sip cider & munch on popcorn. After the show, enjoy self-guided, hands on science activities in the center – try your knowledge at bird identification, learn about a watershed, create a miniature stream & see how water works, discover the real difference in energy use between incandescent bulbs & LED bulbs. Staff will be available for questions and assistance.

**Date:** Thursday, March 2  
**Time:** 4-5:30  
**Cost:** \$5 - \$20 max/ family

**Winter SLEIGH & SKI FEST .....Everyone**

Let it snow, Let it snow, Let it snow. Celebrate winter at PWELC with fun outdoor activities for everyone in the family; snowshoeing, and cross country skiing. Indoors, warm up by the fire and try your hand at the climbing wall. Enjoy a bowl of chili, live music and exhibits.

**Date:** Sunday, February 12  
**Time:** 11:00-4:00 PM

**Cost:** No charge for sleigh rides, chili feed, music & exhibits.  
\$5 per person, \$15 max per family for equipment rental (ski, snowshoe & indoor climbing wall)

**PRESIDENTIAL SKI/CLIMB/SURVIVE:**

.....Grades: 1st and up  
NO SCHOOL TODAY-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

Get outside and explore this winter! Hit the trails and have an adventure on the skinny skis. Learn some winter survival skills. Then we will come inside to finish the day at the indoor climbing wall. Meet at main building.

**Date:** Monday, February 20  
**Time:** 8:00-4:00PM  
**Cost:** \$25/ person

**BEGINNER ARCHERY CLASS:.....Grades: 5th and up**

This class gives you the opportunity to learn the basics of using a compound bow and arrow. We will be working on form, safety, technique, how to properly use the equipment, etc. A hands-on class of learning and fun while practicing and playing archery games that all ages will enjoy. All equipment will be provided. Meet at farmsite.

**Date:** Tuesday, March 7 • Tuesday, March 21  
**Time:** 4:00-5:30pm  
**Cost:** \$10/ person

**EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AND RECYCLED  
OUTDOOR GEAR SALE: .....Everyone Welcome!**

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.

Presentation by the Zoomobile at 10:30.  
**No pre-registration necessary.**  
**Date:** Saturday, April 22th  
**Time:** 8:00-1:00pm  
**Cost:** Free



4th Annual

# Prairie Woods Sleigh & Ski Festival

Sun. February 12, 2017    11:00 am to 4:00pm

**Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center**

12718 10th St NE - Spicer, MN

320-354-5894

[www.prairiewoodselc.org](http://www.prairiewoodselc.org)

Join us for a day of winter fun!  
Chili Feed (11a -1p), Live Music, Sleigh Parade,  
Winter Hobby & Craft Exhibits and More.  
Sleigh Rides from 1 to 3 pm FREE

Try XC Skiing, Snowshoeing & Rockclimbing  
rentals \$5/\$15 max for families







*Fourth Annual*  
**Tommy Swenson Memorial  
Ice Fishing Tournament**

On Green Lake • Spicer, MN

**A portion of funds  
raised will once again  
be directed to PWELC  
to help fund youth  
sporting programs.**

**Door Prizes  
& Prizes for  
Largest Fish:**

**Saturday  
February 4, 2017  
9am to Noon**

**Lunch @ 12:30pm**

**Register @ Spicer American Legion  
7:30 – 8:30 am**

**Ticket \$25**  
**includes**  
**Chicken Dinner**

Please bring a non-perishable  
food item for the food shelf

Proceeds go to local area charities

**Questions:  
320-295-9531**