



**PRAIRIE WOODS
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER**

12718 10th St. NE
Spicer MN 56288
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www.prairiewoodselc.org
pwelc@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

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PRAIRIE WOODS *Warbler*
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- ◆ 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.*

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PRAIRIE WOODS ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER
Annual Membership for 2011

- ☐ New Member
☐ Renewing Member

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- ☐ 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
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☐ \$1000

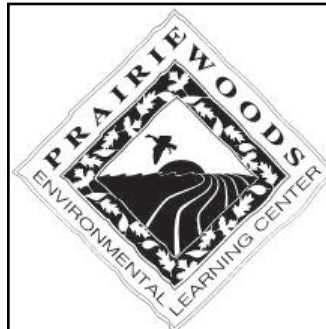
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Please enclose payment to Prairie Woods ELC, and send to:

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



VOLUME 18

SPRING 2011

ISSUE 1

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Earth Day 2011- Saturday, April 16th. Check it Out!

Earth Day 2011 is shaping up to be the best yet. The day will feature a free-will pancake breakfast, two performances of "Are you thirsty?" by the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, a keynote address by Stephen Lee of MPCA, the 2011 YES! Awards, dozens of exhibits, renewable energy vendors, prairie restoration specialists, watershed experts, a rain barrel sale, a live hawk demonstration, the DNR fish tank, tie-dye t-shirts, lots of kid activities, archaeology displays, flintknapping rock star, Joel Osmond, and much more! Wow, what a day, and it's free!

Check out the mini-poster inserted with this newsletter and please post it prominently in your home, church, grocery store or workplace to help remind yourself and others of an event you won't want to miss. Please check out the multiple sponsors listed on the Earth Day flyer and make a point to say thanks when you have the chance. The event involves dozens of organizations, agencies and businesses and well over 50 volunteers. See you at Earth Day!

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MWA HABITAT DAY!

Over 100 wood duck boxes were constructed during the annual Habitat Day put on at Prairie Woods by Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Prairie Pothole Chapter on Saturday, March 5th. Wood duck box kits were sold for just \$10 each and MWA chapter members were on hand to assist with the construction.

It is always great to see moms, dads and grandparents working with their young ones to construct wood duck boxes which will be taken home to provide both habitat for wood ducks and hours of viewing enjoyment for the families.

Thanks Prairie Pothole Chapter for another important and well run annual event.
Note: If you missed Habitat Day, visit the Prairie Pothole Chapter booth at Earth Day. Wood duck box kits will be available.



COMING SOON AT THE FARM SITE: THE BERNICK'S OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the Bernick's Family Foundation and assistance from the New London-Spicer Summer FFA program, we expect to begin construction of a 20' x20' shelter and a 8'x25' shade arbor in June. The outdoor classroom will provide rain and sun shelter for groups at the farm site as well as provide a unique space for family gatherings and special events amongst the bird and butterfly gardens to the east of the barn. If you would like to assist with this project please contact Dave Pederson at 320-354-5894. Look for a full report in the Fall Warbler.

Upcoming Events at Prairie Woods

Earth Day 2011 at PWELCApril 16th 8am-1pm
2011 YES! Awards at Earth Day
1st Annual PWELC Shoot-a-thonMay 31, 2011
A fundraiser for the annual wheelchair accessible hunt and youth programs at Prairie Woods.
7th Annual JJM Victory RunSaturday, June 18, 2011 9am
Little Crow Archers 3rd Annual 3D-60August 13 (9a-3p) & 14th(9a-2p)
Prairie Stars Fundraiser- Reserve the Date.....Sept. 9, 2011



*Notes from the Executive Director*

by Dave Pederson, Executive Director

We certainly live in a world of uncertainty.

I write this just days after a major earthquake and tsunami in Japan have much of the world reeling with concern over radiation escaping from damaged nuclear reactors; adding to our energy anxiety over rising oil prices related to historic levels of unrest in oil producing countries and our own recent gulf oil disaster. One major world event after another seems to muscle yesterdays news out of the headlines. Initial furor over last week's bad news is already fading from memory leaving us to think, "oh well it must not have been that bad after-all; certainly not as bad as.... (fill in the blank w/ today's more recent reports of disaster)."

Meanwhile our wind turbine, photovoltaic panels, biomass boiler, solar hot water heater and solar air heating panels continue to quietly generate most of the heat and electricity used at Prairie Woods. As the (social, economic and environmental) price of energy continues to climb we appreciate the investments that have been made in renewable energy and conservation at Prairie Woods.

At Prairie Woods we are trying to live as if it matters because, certainly, it matters. It matters that we continue to seek ways to live within our means (social, economic and environmental). It matters that our youth have opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors and the chance to form lifelong commitments to environmental stewardship.

In this newsletter you'll read about some of the learning experiences in store for you and our thousands of visitors in the upcoming spring and summer seasons. Earth Day 2011 promises to be the biggest and best yet; the Youth Energy Summit (YES!) is completing another very impressive year and is poised for expansion in 2011-2013 through an LCCMR grant; Bernick's Family Foundation has awarded a grant for the construction of the Bernick's Outdoor Classroom at the farm site; and on and on. Good things are happening at Prairie Woods despite very difficult economic times. In this time of uncertainty, I am more certain than ever that there has never been a more important time for Prairie Woods to live out our mission "to promote an individual and shared commitment to the responsible use, management and preservation of our natural resources."

Please take a moment to enjoy reading about the progress and plans at Prairie Woods and then please roll up your sleeves and join us in the work (and play) of learning to live well with self, others and the environment.

Sincerely,
Dave

A SKI SEASON FOR THE RECORD BOOKS!

We have just finished (haven't we?) a great year for cross-country skiing at Prairie Woods. The snow came early and stayed late which gave our grooming equipment, and our skiers, a real workout. Besides school groups during the week, our trails were enjoyed by hundreds of skiers on the weekends.

Thanks to skinnyski.com, the Kandiyohi County Convention and Visitor Bureau website, and our friends in area motels and B&Bs we enjoyed having a number of visitors from the metro area who ventured out to Kandiyohi County for cross-country ski mini-vacations. With groomed ski trails available at Sibley State Park and Eagle Creek Golf Course as well as at Prairie Woods, ski enthusiasts from novice to expert can enjoy a great weekend getaway. Help spread the word for next ski season!

NEWS FROM THE GARDEN

Deb Schmitzerle sends us this note about volunteer opportunities/needs for the upcoming gardening season at the Prairie Woods farm site: "We plan on having 2 gardening groups – one a morning group and one an early evening group – each meeting twice a month from May until September." If you are interested in helping with the gardens please contact the Prairie Woods office at 354-5894 or contact Deb directly.

*Notes from EE Coordinator Kory Klebe*

At the writing of this article I am 8 months into my 1st year as the Environmental Education and Shooting Sports Coordinator at Prairie Woods ELC. First of all I would like to thank Minnesota for welcoming me with a true MN winter. Even though there was a lot of snow, it might not even be exaggerating to say there was tons, there were plenty of "nice" winter days. This was evident by the large number of people out cross country skiing and snowshoeing. Almost every weekend there were people gliding and trudging through the woods and prairies. In addition to the school groups making their annual winter trips to PW, the boy scouts also got in on the winter fun. Two scout groups came out to do animal tracking and winter survival. A third group was even more adventurous and tried



their hand at winter camping by building a snow shelter called a quinzee and sleeping in it with below freezing temperatures. Yes, they survived. At least that is what the dads that slept in the woodstove-heated yurt told me the next day.

Not all the great things that we do happen just at PW. In January Prairie Woods was invited to participate in Science Rocks, a day of science for 5th and 6th graders at St Cloud State University coordinated by Resource Training & Solutions. We provided 6 presenters to teach classes about wetlands and wildlife to over 400 students.

As we head into spring there are lots of wonderful programs coming up, starting with our annual Earth Day celebration. If a pancake breakfast, tie dyeing t-shirts, and a professional puppet show on water issues sounds like a good time, come join us April 16th from 8a-1p. Some other programs on the calendar are: Tours of area lakes in the big canoe, full moon canoes, open shooting range days, nature day camp, and overnight Forkhorn camps. If any of these sound interesting, make sure that you check out our website or call for more information.

Kory Klebe
Environmental Education Coordinator
Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center
320-354-5894
kory_k@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

**~ NEEDS AND GIVING OPPORTUNITIES ~**

- Utility tractor w/ loader (used-diesel)
- Commercial grade riding mower/snow blower (diesel)
- Scholarship and Travel Assistance Fund Contributions (any amount will help)
- Used Diesel pick-up (3/4 or 1 ton) for plowing snow
- Gravity box grain wagon for hauling corn and wood pellets
- Contributions to help Prairie Woods purchase a pre-owned vehicle to support outreach programs (total need- \$15,000)
- Portable clay target thrower (\$700-\$1200)
- Table and chair replacement fund (\$25/ chair- \$100/table)

Volunteers Needed

- Cut firewood and assist with trail work
- Assist w/newsletters, grant writing and marketing
- Help to host special events
- Join the Prairie Stars Event Committee
- Assist with programs in all activity areas
- Help to re-vitalize the Indian History Village
- Help to scrape and paint the farm house.
- Sew costumes and bonnets for Time Travel
- Help w/ Trail Signage

Call Dave at 320-354-5894 if you would like to volunteer!

*~ Staff Updates ~*

Hi, my name is **Ryan Ruhl** and I am the intern this spring at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center. I have lived in the New London Spicer area all my life and attended NL-S Schools. I will

graduate in May from Minnesota State Mankato with a major in Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services with an emphasis towards Resource Management. For fun, I like to hunt, fish and be as close to the lake as I possibly can.

My free time in the summer consists of skiing on the Little Crow Ski Team, fishing, and spending time with friends on the lake.

My time spent at PWELC has been a great experience so far. I have enjoyed working with the wonderful staff and watching our young visitors learn about the many aspects and opportunities of outdoor recreation. It has been a great experience helping people and teaching them something new. I look forward to the remaining time I have here and hope that I can continue to have fun and show people what an awesome place Prairie Woods is.

Anne Dybsetter, YES! Coordinator, will be on educational leave, March through May, completing a student-teaching experience and finishing a masters degree. **Teri Wermerskirchen** will serve as the Interim YES! Coordinator during Anne's leave.

Please contact Teri regarding YES! during this interim period.

SOME OF THE NICE THINGS DONE FOR PRAIRIE WOODS *by People Like You*

- * Dennis & Ruthanne Neeser donated a set of Frances Hopkins framed voyageur prints
- * Ryan Newville, Dave Muetzel, Larry Kleindl initiated a fundraiser to support the wheelchair accessible hunt and youth sporting programs at PWELC.
- * Charles & Marilyn Magnuson made a memorial donation in honor of Stephen Shores
- * Prairie Country RC&D made a memorial donation in honor of Roger Rasmussen
- * Jeff and Sue Danielson made a memorial donation in honor of Dr. Robert Hodapp.
- * Jeff and Cheryl Johnson continued their longstanding support of Prairie Woods
- * Lake Region Bank employees contributed \$400 to Prairie Woods in honor of Paul Vollar's birthday.
- * Marjorie Dickman continued her annual support at a benefactor level.
- * Jeff & LeeAnn Ettinger continued their annual support at a benefactor level.
- * Jennie O Turkey Store donated sausages for the Earth Day pancake breakfast.
- * Jahnke Foods donated pancake syrup for Earth Day.
- * Runnings Farm & Fleet donated clay targets for the Shoot-a-thon.
- * Zero Tolerance donated shotgun shells for the range fundraiser.
- * Dick Doll installed a Purple Martin House. Thanks Randy Frederickson for arranging the donation of the martin house from the Purple Martin Association
- * Roger Strand spent hours checking and cleaning wood duck boxes as well speaking to groups at events like Habitat Days and Conservation Days.
- * Deb Schmitzerle spent hours working on garden projects and assisted greatly with the development of the Bernick's Outdoor Classroom grant proposal.
- * Architect, Jeff Nagel volunteered time to develop concept drawings for the Bernick's Outdoor Classroom

CHECK OUT A NEST FULL OF PROJECTS HATCHED BY AVID BIRDERS AT PRAIRIE WOODS!

Dick Doll has installed a **Purple Martin House** near the Kettle Lake observation platform. **Thanks Randy Frederickson and Dick Doll** for securing the house from the Purple Martin Association. Dick will be maintaining the house and monitoring the health and productivity of the birds once a colony is formed.

Two Chimney Swift Towers have been erected under the direction of Eagle Scout candidates Zach Emory and Micah Chetrit. We hope to begin attracting chimney swifts to nest in the towers this year.

Bluebird Project- Ron Erpelding continues to monitor and tend the bluebird houses at Prairie Woods. Talk to Ron to learn about his success with increasing the bluebird population at Prairie Woods.

Wood Duck Project initiated by Roger Strand continues to delight visitors to the Tree House who can enjoy viewing an active nest box via live video feed. Reality Television, PWELC style. Roger tends over twenty nest boxes at Prairie Woods which produce hundreds of wood ducks each year.

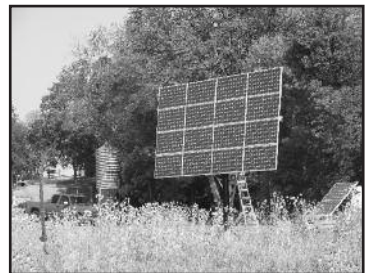
Joe Gartner has worked for several years to establish a **Bird Banding Project at Prairie Woods**. Check out Joe's display at Earth Day and see how you can get involved with banding birds this summer.

(Many of these folks will be on hand at Earth Day to discuss their projects.)

**DNR SOLAR LEGACY GRANT UPDATE**

Thanks to a grant from the DNR Parks and Trails Fund, created by the Minnesota Legislature from the 2008 Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, Prairie Woods has nearly realized our goal of operating our Education Building and the Westby Observatory with 100% renewable energy. A \$54,000 grant award from the DNR covered 75% of the cost of our most recent energy upgrades, which included the installation of an additional 8kw of photovoltaic panels, three solar lighting tubes, insulating shades and an energy monitoring system. The grant has also enabled us to develop a self-guided renewable energy tour at Prairie Woods with assistance from Jennifer Miller, a University of Minnesota Morris student-intern, in cooperation with the UMM Center for Small Towns and the West Central Partnership. Thanks Dorothy Rosemeier of WCP and Troy Goodenough of UMM for assistance with this very worthwhile project.

Visitors to the Prairie Woods campus can now see well over a dozen working examples of renewable energy technology and conservation measures that meet the three-legged (social, economic and environmental) sustainability test appropriate for our region. Projects include a biomass boiler, 9kw of fixed solar electric panels, a 3kw pole-mounted solar tracker, 3 solar tubes, 3 pellet stoves, a 20kw wind turbine, a solar hot water heater, solar air heating panels, insulating shades, a solar heating system at the maintenance building supplemented by a wood-fired boiler, an all-electric Ford Ranger pick-up, a portable solar trailer, composting toilets, air-source heat pumps, prairie plantings, and even small solar chargers for the throwers at the sporting clays range. Walk-in visitors and scheduled groups are welcome.

**PRAIRIE COUNTRY RC&D AWARDS \$900 MINI-GRANT TO PRAIRIE WOODS**

Thanks to our friends from Prairie Country Resource Conservation and Development we were able to purchase two 10'x15' commercial grade canopy tents to be used at special events. Look for the canopy tents at Earth Day 2011. Thanks PCRC&D!!

BEST BUY AWARDS \$5000 GRANT FOR YES!

We were delighted to receive a \$5000 grant from Best Buy for support of YES!

Thanks a bunch to the local Willmar Best Buy staff and General Manager Tracy Hanson who advocated for Prairie Woods in this national grant competition. Please make a point of thanking Tracy and other employees who you may know in the Willmar Best Buy store!

**PRAIRIE WOODS ELC AND SIBLEY STATE PARK RECEIVE DNR GATEWAY GRANT FOR PADDLE IN THE PARK.**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has funded a collaborative proposal from Prairie Woods ELC and Sibley State Park to encourage families with young children and non-traditional park users to get involved in nature-based outdoor recreation. For three days in June, Prairie Woods will launch the 34' voyageur canoe on Lake Andrew and take park visitors for a paddle guided by one of the Sibley State Park naturalists.

This is a perfect opportunity for organizations that serve recent immigrants, group homes, church youth groups and families with young children to get your group into the big canoe and into the great outdoors.

Groups that schedule for June 11, 18 & 25 will enjoy the big canoe and a naturalist program at no charge. State Park vehicle permits are required on all days except June 11th which coincides with the annual park open house.

Call Dave or Kory at 320-354-5894 if you would like to set up a Paddle in the Park for your group.

A gift to the Prairie Woods Sustainability Endowment lives forever.



Notes from the Challenge Course

Deb Anderson, Challenge Course
Coordinator



She Finally Felt Proud

It's a great feeling to feel proud, to hear classmates cheer for you, to have something to go home and tell your parents, and to know you did something difficult. If you have ever done something that made you feel proud then you can imagine how one little girl felt the day she came to Prairie Woods recently with her class from Hutchinson Elementary school.

We had lots of fun with the Hutchinson group and had a great day. We did not know how great, until a few days later when a thank you card arrived in the mail. This is what it said...

Dear Prairie Woods Staff-

Just a note of thanks for the wonderful experience your facility provided for me and the student I chaperoned on our recent Hutchinson visit. We both totally enjoyed the entire day. The young lady I was with did very well on the climbing wall. Her classmates cheered her on and even remarked on her quickness on the wall. This has never happened before.

When we got back to the school she told me she would never forget that day and that she finally felt proud of herself for accomplishing something of difficulty. She told me she would always remember how it felt to have her classmates support. Thank you again for everything. It meant more than you know...

Melanie Clintsman

School nurse

That pretty much says it all and this experience seems to happen over and over at Prairie Woods. It is such a great opportunity as a staff person at Prairie Woods to get to share in these experiences—experiences of a lifetime—the day she finally feels proud.

RUN WILD!

The 7th Annual JJM Victory Run

is scheduled for Saturday, June 18, 2011 at 9am. Serious runners to casual walkers are welcome at the JJM Victory Run. Two courses (1mile & 5K) on the trails at Prairie Woods. Join us for a morning to enjoy fun, family, friends and fitness. This event was started by friends and family of Jesse John Mithaugen and has grown to include all who wish to celebrate the memory of loved ones by living life to the fullest. Contact Deb Anderson at PWELC or visit

www.prairiewoodselc.org to register for the event.



HECK YES!

YES! Teams near completion of another impressive year.

Anne Dybsetter and Teri McCarthy-Wermerskirchen



Great ideas are picking up speed as the 2010-2011 YES! season approaches the finish line. Returning grand prize winner **Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City** is “setting the pace” with an array of activities, including an expanded Green Education event for their elementary school. They also designed and built a compost bin, installed high-efficiency exit lights, and set up tours at a wind farm in their district for all of their fellow students in grades 5 thru 12.

But with other teams rolling out great ideas of their own, the YES! “Co-opetition” this season is far from decided. Consider the students from **Eden Valley-Watkins**, who are getting final details wrapped up for their fixed solar PV panels, installing a kiosk to compare output with their tracking solar panels, retro-fitting lighting, and improving recycling. **Lac qui Parle Valley** is generating community contributions for their solar-lighting project in Appleton, as well as planning another worm-bin composting workshop. **Ortonville** is implementing a computer-shut-down program that will prevent the school's computers from being “phantom loads.” **New London-Spicer, Willmar and other teams from throughout the region** are also continuing to produce very impressive results.

Sound interesting? Plan to attend the YES! Awards Ceremony on Saturday, April 16, at 12 noon, in conjunction with the Earth Day event. Hear about these and many other stellar projects, meet the students and coaches involved—and find out this year’s award winners!

Southwest Initiative Foundation continues to be an indispensable partner in the YES! program. SWIF has funded two YES! Coordinator positions during the 2010-2011 season and is playing a lead role in a planned expansion of YES! **Other program partners include Prairie Ecology Bus Center, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation and coming soon- Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center.**

Check out www.youthenergysummit.org for more on program partners, plans, and resources.

Is YES! IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

With the help of an LCCMR grant YES! is making plans to offer the program in an expanded region for the 2011-2013 seasons. If you know of a community that doesn’t yet have a YES! team in action, help us let them know about the program! Contact the YES! coordinator at 320-583-4488 or see www.youthenergysummit.org.

Check out YES! on Facebook

Youth Energy Summit is on Facebook. Search for Youth Energy Summit from your facebook account to become a fan and share the latest news on what your local YES! crew is up to! Also be sure to visit the YES! website at www.youthenergysummit.org



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED: 354-5894

PWELC ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY ED OFFERINGS SUMMER 2011

NATURE DAYSCost: \$55 for each 3 day session
WHAT’S THAT????? Let check it out! For three mornings we will explore the natural world in which we live. We will use hands on activities and games better understand the forest, prairie, and the wetlands at Prairie Woods.

Date: June 21,22,23 • July 26,27,28

Time: 8:30am-11:30am

Age: 4-8

BIG CANOE SUNDAY CRUISE SERIES.....Age 7 and up
Cost: \$15 per person \$45 max per family

Just out for a Sunday cruise...IN A 34 FOOT CANOE. Come help row, row, row our boat as we cruise around local lakes. We will provide the boat, life jackets, paddles, and nature interpretation. All you have to do is provide the horsepower.

Date: June 5, Green Lake, 3:30p-5:30p

June 12, Ringo Lake, 1:00-3:00 • July 24, Long Lake, 1:00-3:00

August 7, Nest Lake, 1:00-3:00

Must register for each date separately.

FULL MOON CANOE.....Age 7 and up
Cost: \$15 per person. Max: \$45 per family

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

Date: June 15 Time: 7:30p-9:30p

July 15 7:30p-9:30p • August 13 7:00p-9:00p

September 12 6:00p-8:00p

Must register for each date separately.

PWELC SHOOTING RANGE COMMUNITY ED OFFERINGS SUMMER 2011

HOME ON THE RANGEAge: 12 years old and up.

Did you know that Prairie Woods ELC has a sporting clays shotgun range? The clays come from behind, left, right, straight up, straight at you, there is even one that rolls on the ground. Bring your own 12 or 20ga to use or borrow one of ours. Experienced, novice, and beginning shooters are all welcome.

Date: May 14

June 11

Time: 1:00-4:00

Cost: \$20 per round. Includes 25 clays and 25 shells

***Want to bring your own group (scouts, family, friends) to the range?**

Give us a call to

set up a shoot.

FORKHORN I CAMP.....Cost: \$345

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, hunters ethics, and wildlife ecology. MN DNR firearm safety certification is part of this camp.

Date: July 10-14

Time: Check-in Sunday @ 3pm, Check-out Thursday @ 2pm

Age: 12-15 years old

***Call Prairie Woods ELC for registration packet**

FORKHORN II CAMPCost: \$345

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.

Date: July 17-21

Time: Check-in Sunday @ 3pm, Check-out Thursday @ 2pm

Age: 12-15 years old

***Call Prairie Woods ELC for registration packet**

TIME TRAVEL PROGRAMSCost: \$25.00pp

Ever wish you could travel back in time? First we’ll visit the pioneers in the 1800s. We’ll cut wood for the stove with a two-handled saw, prepare a snack in the log cabin and make a toy to keep. Then we’ll travel by canoe as the Voyageurs did back to the Native American Village and try our hand at building fires, and throwing Atl-Atls and other activities of the past.

Date: July 12 • Time: 9am-3pm

Ages: 8-14 yrs

***Bring a bag lunch**

PIONEER GIRLS DAYCost: \$14.00pp

Did you ever wish you could be a pioneer girl like Laura Ingalls was? Come spend the morning at a homesteaders log cabin. Dress up as a pioneer and learn some pioneer crafts. We’ll make a corn husk doll and try some fabric arts of the past.

Date: Tuesday, August 2 • Time: 9am-noon

Ages: 8-14yrs

~PIONEER BIRTHDAY PARTIES~

Looking for a unique idea for a birthday party? Why not celebrate your birthday like Laura Ingalls Wilder and other pioneer boys and girls? Dress as a pioneer and play some games that were played in the 1800s. You can even make a toy to bring home. Choose from other activities as well. Call PWELC 354-5894 to plan your Pioneer Birthday Party today!



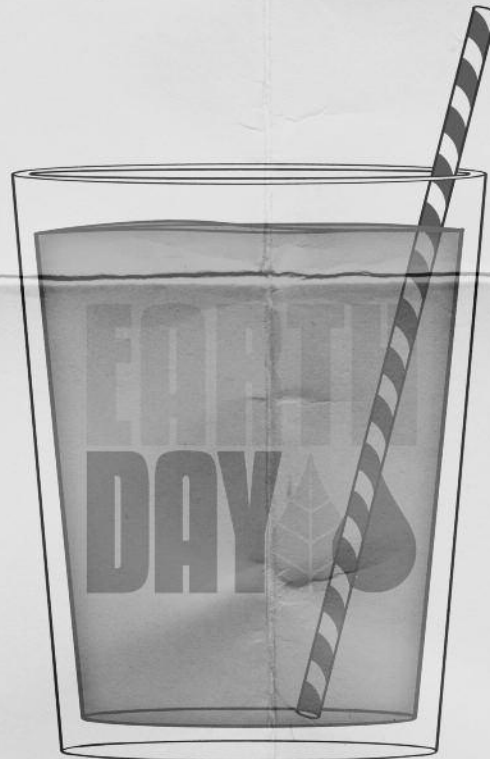
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ARE YOU THIRSTY?

an earth day event at prairie woods elc
prairiewoodselc.org 12718 10th St. NE Spicer, MN 320-354-5894



SAT, APRIL 16TH - 8AM TO 1PM

8-10am: FREE-will pancake breakfast

in the Heart of the Beast Puppet Show 10am: "Are You Thirsty" 11am: "Are You Thirsty" (Spanish Version)

11am: Key Note Speaker: Stephen Lee - MPCA "Pollution Control: History & Future Challenges"

12pm: Youth Energy Summit (YES!) Awards

ATTRACTIONS: free Trees, Rain Barrel Sale (first come, first serve), Nitrate Testing (bring your well water), Soil Tunnel, Water Quality Info, Native Landscaping & Renewable Energy vendors, Little Crow Archers, DNR Fish Tank, Build a MWA Wood Duck Box, Info Booths, Educational Activities, Renewable Energy Demonstrations, Archaeology Exhibits & Artifact Id, Flint-Knapping Demos, Youth Energy Summit (YES!) Team Exhibits, Kid's Activities: Tie-Dying, Climbing Wall & Much More!



Jennie-O Turkey Store, Prairie County RC&D, Right On Canvas

In the Heart of the Beast and Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center is a fiscal year 2011 recipient of an "Arts Touring grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board." This activity is funded, in part, by the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.



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SAT, APRIL 16TH - 8AM TO 1PM

8-10am: FREE-will pancake breakfast

in the Heart of the Beast Puppet Show 10am: "Are You Thirsty" 11am: "Are You Thirsty" (Spanish Version)

11am: Key Note Speaker: Stephen Lee - MPCA "Pollution Control: History & Future Challenges"

12pm: Youth Energy Summit (YES!) Awards

ATTRACTIONS: free Trees, Rain Barrel Sale (first come, first serve), Nitrate Testing (bring your well water), Soil Tunnel, Water Quality Info, Native Landscaping & Renewable Energy vendors, Little Crow Archers, DNR Fish Tank, Build a MWA Wood Duck Box, Info Booths, Educational Activities, Renewable Energy Demonstrations, Archaeology Exhibits & Artifact Id, Flint-Knapping Demos, Youth Energy Summit (YES!) Team Exhibits, Kid's Activities: Tie-Dying, Climbing Wall & Much More!



Jennie-O Turkey Store, Prairie County RC&D, Right On Canvas

In the Heart of the Beast and Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center is a fiscal year 2011 recipient of an "Arts Touring grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board." This activity is funded, in part, by the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.



FUNDRAISERS AT PRAIRIE WOODS

As this edition of the Warbler goes to press, two groups of dedicated volunteers are concocting **two great fundraising events for 2011: An Evening Under the Prairie Stars and the 1st Annual PWELC Shoot-a-thon.** Please contact the Prairie Woods office or members of the organizing committees if you would like to assist with or participate in these great events.

PWELC SHOOT-A-THON, MAY 31ST

A cool fundraising event in the works will be the 1st **Annual PWELC Shoot-a-thon** to be held at the Westby Shooting Range on **May 31st from 5-8pm.** This fundraiser will **challenge up to 20 teams of 3 to a “best ball” style competition involving sporting clays, archery and the .22 cal. rifle range.** Think: “golf with a shotgun.” Expect the unexpected! Each station may involve additional fun challenges sure to test the skill and sense of humor of all participants. Novice through expert are welcome (age 18 and over). The fee for each team of 3 will be \$150 which includes all shells, clays, targets and equipment use as well as beverages and a picnic lunch. The highest scoring team will take home bragging rights and a traveling trophy. The event will also include a raffle. All proceeds will help support the annual wheelchair accessible hunt and youth sporting programs at Prairie Woods. Thanks Dave Muetzel, Ryan Newville, Larry Kleindl and a growing number of volunteers for putting this event together.

7TH ANNUAL JJM VICTORY RUN! JUNE 18TH

Run Wild! The 7th Annual JJM Victory Run is scheduled for Saturday, June 18, 2011 at 9am. Contact Deb Anderson at PWELC or visit www.prairiewoodselc.org to register for the event.

3RD ANNUAL WEST-CENTRAL BOWHUNTER 60 3-D SHOOT SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 13TH & 14TH

Little Crow Archers and Swift County Archers are teaming up again to offer a 60 target 3D archery event to be held over two days at Prairie Woods. Last year, 191 archers from throughout the state enjoyed everything from the expected to the unexpected including mosquito and dinosaur targets. Kudos to the volunteers from Little Crow and Swift County Archers who invest hundreds of hours into this premier event for the whole family.
For more info: Contact Dennis Winzenburg 320-212-4715, www.littlecrowarchers.com or Tadd Egenes 507-430-1832, www.swiftcountyarchers.com For camping and hotel info: www.SeeYouInWillmar.com

AN EVENING UNDER THE PRAIRIE STARS, SEPT. 9TH

The **Prairie Stars** Committee is planning to change things up a bit for this year but look forward to another evening of great food, great company and more music and fun under the big tent at the Prairie Woods farm site. Please plan to join us for a great evening on **Friday, Sept. 9th.** The Prairie Stars committee is seeking new members to inject fresh ideas and energy into the 2011 event. Please contact the Prairie Woods office if you would be interested in helping w/ the Prairie Stars event.

MORE COMMUNITY EDUCATION SUMMER FUN!

HIGH ADVENTURE DAY CAMPS\$25 per person (min of 10)
Tues, June 14, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, OR
Thursday, July 7, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, OR
Wednesday, July 27, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm OR
Tues, Aug 16, 9:00-4:00 OR

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 andbe prepared to have LOTS of fun.

Attend one session.
Grades 3-7 (If an older group would be interested I will schedule a separate class. Call PWELC to arrange 320-354-5894)

HIGH ADVENTURE DAY CAMPS\$25 per person (min of 10)
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.
Tuesday, July 19, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm • Grades 3-7

INVESTIGATE AND RESCUE DAY CAMP
\$25 per person (min of 8)
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 4, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Grades K-4

FAMILY CLIMB**\$10 per climber**
I’m bored! School’s out for the summer and the kids are tired of being home. Come share some quality family time and get some exercise too. Prairie Woods’ climbing wall is open and waiting for your family to come and have some fun.
Tues, June 28 6-8:00
All ages

****Check out Prairie Woods on Facebook****

Prairie Woods- a natural choice for your next corporate or family special event.
Call Ann Phillips for facility rental details and rates



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