



PRAIRIE WOODS

Warbler



Central Minnesota
Community Foundation
Engaging People. Building Community.



VOLUME 14

WINTER 2008

ISSUE 3

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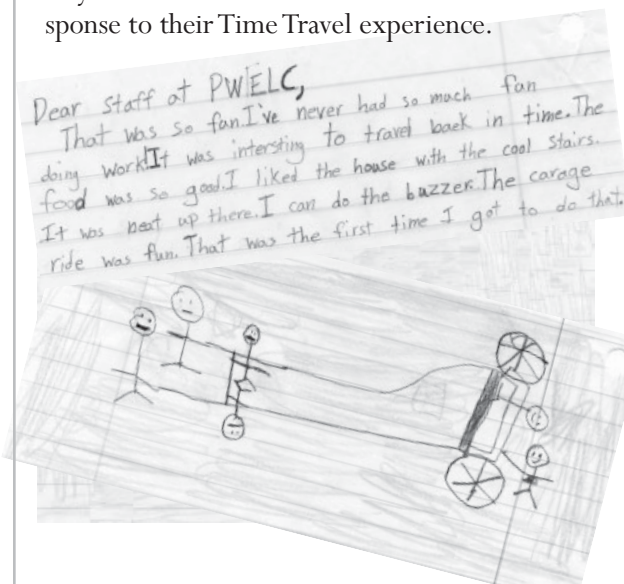
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A page from the PRAIRIE WOODS SCRAPBOOK: AUTUMN 2008

3rd grade students from Kennedy Elementary wrote letters to Prairie Woods staff in response to their Time Travel experience.



FFA Greenhands Day: 300+ students from around the region enjoyed Challenge Course activities and use of the Prairie Woods facility.

Special events find a beautiful site at Prairie Woods: "What a pretty place for a wedding!"



Conservation Days: Kandiyohi County's 6th graders—458 of them—spent a day with natural resource professionals in October.

Upcoming Events at Prairie Woods

WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1 PM-5 PM
EARTH DAY CELEBRATION SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 8 AM-1 PM
YOUR FIELD TRIP OR SPECIAL EVENT CALL US TO SCHEDULE!

LOOKING FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS? SEE PAGES 8 AND 9.



Notes from the Executive Director

by Dave Pederson, Executive Director

As noted recently by *The Lakes Area Review*, it was ten years ago in August that Prairie Woods received funding approval from the Minnesota State Legislature to construct the Education Building and Westby Observatory. We have come a long way in ten years thanks to a tremendous effort by volunteers, board members, staff and contributors!



The Prairie Woods' growth chart since 1996 is essentially a 45 degree trajectory. We have been blessed to have excellent support from staff, board members, volunteers, funding partners and Kandiyohi County. Our participant numbers for Time Travel, Youth Sporting Programs and Facility rentals have all jumped up

dramatically from last year. YES! and Project Eco-Voyageur are becoming established as very effective outreach programs and the Challenge Course and regular environmental education programs continue to crank out learning adventures for thousands of participants of all ages. We are enjoying the flexibility afforded by our new building additions and starting to experience some real benefits from generating most of our own power on-site.

I hope you enjoy reading about our ongoing progress and expanding capacity for service at Prairie Woods. We are excited to tell you about the recent Prairie Stars fundraiser and provide you with updates about our programs and renewable energy projects. Your support makes it all possible. With your help, Prairie Woods is developing programs and partnerships that can truly contribute to the social, economic and environmental vitality of our region. Thanks for being a partner with Prairie Woods!

Dave

"Wish List"

- ◆ Volunteers to staff the Trailhead during winter weekends
- ◆ Volunteer weekend hosts
- ◆ Small pickup truck for conversion to electric (body in good shape—engine need not work)
- ◆ Table saw
- ◆ Utility tractor with loader (diesel)
- ◆ Volunteers to cut firewood
- ◆ Funds to replace cross country ski equipment
- ◆ Scholarship and Travel Assistance Fund Contributions
- ◆ Volunteers to help build a rustic shed for the Time Travel site
- ◆ Donations for bird banding equipment (\$2000 total—gifts in any amount are welcome)

NICE THINGS DONE FOR PRAIRIE WOODS. . .

by people like you

- ◆ **Bill Johnson** donated five framed wildlife prints.
- ◆ The **family & friends of Ed Davis** contributed a \$1000 memorial gift to support youth sporting programs.
- ◆ **Kevin, Jeannie and Tom Groth** spent a day clearing cross country ski trails.
- ◆ **Evan Armstrong** organized a crew and cleared a new section of ski trail as an Eagle Scout project
- ◆ **Paul Vollan and family** are opting to make a collective donation to Prairie Woods in lieu of exchanging Christmas gifts this year.
- ◆ **Steve Salzer and MinnWest Technology Campus** sold solar panels to PWELC at a fraction of the actual value.
- ◆ **Ron Erpelding** contributed funds for equipment needed for the bird monitoring project.
- ◆ **WRAC 8** shot video footage highlighting Fall Open House and the Challenge Course and regularly aired the programs throughout October and November.



An Evening Under the Prairie Stars: Wow!

And what an evening it was! Over 270 people enjoyed a beautiful September evening at a tented dinner in the Prairie Woods farm site. The evening featured locally-grown food and music by The Mill Pond Jazz Band and the Fringe Band. A lively auction by Fladeboe Auctioneers rounded out the evening.

A high point of the evening was watching the crowd raise over \$4000 in five minutes in order to establish a travel assistance and scholarship fund to help schools in need to attend programs at Prairie Woods (see below).



A huge thank you is due to **Lakeland Broadcasting, Heritage Bank & Pioneer Heritage Insurance, and Prairie Woods Trustees**, who were the first to step up and provide support as Underwriters.

A big thanks to Boy Scout Troop 228 for assisting with parking and Minnesota Corn Growers for providing two ethanol-powered golf carts and drivers.

A hearty thank you to the Promotions Committee members who put in tons of time to make this event a success: Luke and Allison Geiger, Joel Schmidt, Ron Erpelding, Mary Merlin-Pelkey, Cindy Westby and Jim Tetzloff.

The date for the next Prairie Stars is already set for Friday, September 11, 2009. Please reserve the date and plan to join us for a great evening.

SCHOLARSHIP & TRAVEL ASSISTANCE FUND

The new Scholarship & Travel Assistance Fund, established at Prairie Stars, has already enabled 150 students from Kennedy Elementary (Willmar) to participate. See the "Time Travel update" for more on their visit to 1888. What a shame it would have been for those students to have missed out for lack of \$200. Thank you, Prairie Stars, for helping to establish this much-needed assistance fund!



Prairie Stars Underwriters: \$2500 level

Heritage Bank and Pioneer Heritage Insurance, LLC
Q102, K100 Real Country, KWLM, 106.5 The Train
Prairie Woods Board of Trustees

EcoSponsors: \$1000 level

Bob Kaiser, Affiliated Community Medical Center
Duininck Brothers Construction
Family Practice Medical Center
Atwater State Bank

Prairie Partner: \$500 level

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cash Wise Grocery | Gary & Nancy Geiger |
| Jeff & Sue Danielson | Dennis & Ruthanne Neeser |
| Arthur & Jodell Driggs | Karen Schneider |
| Environmental Associates Inc. | Roger & Kay Strand |
| & Stonefield Construction | |

Voyager: \$250 level

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bremer Bank | David Kilpatrick & Julie Schultz |
| Dr. Kim Brinton | Timberly Kremer |
| Roger & Sharon Broman | John & Mary Lindstrom |
| Tom & Julie DeBoer | Mary Merlin Pelkey & Russell Pelkey |
| Bob & Patti Dols | Northern Factory Sales |
| Larry & Pauline Duinick | Northern States Supply |
| Ron & Dee Erpelding | Orvis & Doris Pattison |
| Jim & Cindy Firkins Smith | Jon & Sophie Pederson |
| Gilbertson, Martinka & Martinka | Rambow |
| Family Dentistry | Galen & Carmen Rohne |
| Wallace & Donna Gustafson | Joel Schmidt & Amanda Raetzman |
| Kay & Ron Halvorson | Tim & Denise Smith |
| Dark House Angling Association | Ben & Louise Thoma |
| Johnson, Moody, Schmitz & | West Central Sanitation |
| Kleinhuizen, P.A. | West Central Tribune |
| Robert & Patricia Kaiser | |

Live and Silent Auction Contributors

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| BC Gardens of Belgrade | Cindy Ohl |
| Den's Guide Service | Joel Osmond |
| Dirty Dog of Willmar | Rob Palmer and Willmar YES team |
| Eagle Creek Golf Course | Charlene Paulson |
| Allison & Luke Geiger | Fringe Band |
| Bill Gossman | Dennis Pederson |
| Pauline and Bob Halvorson | Restore Products of Minneapolis |
| Home State Bank | Rick's Cycling & Sports Center |
| Julie Joplin | Right on Canvas |
| Kandiyohi County SWCD | Jerry Saetveit |
| Let's Go Fishing of Willmar | Sharon Schuetze |
| Little Crow Golf Course | Stacy's Nursery |
| Little Melvin's | The Angry Trout Café |
| Smitty Luschen | The Yoga Loft |
| McKales Restaurant | Pat Thibault |
| Minnesota Zoo | Walt's Car Wash |
| Michael Monroe | Laura Welle |
| Terry Myllenbeck | Wild Bird Warehouse |
| Nickelodeon Amusement Park | Willow Bay Resort |
| (Mall of America) | |



Challenge Course Update

by Deb Anderson

NATURAL RESOURCES! They are the center and focal point around what our mission statement is all about...

Our mission statement here at Prairie Woods is to promote an individual and shared commitment to the responsible use, management, and preservation of our natural resources.

Natural Resources...What is the first thing that pops into your mind? Minerals, trees, water, coal, oil...? Sure! I challenge you today to broaden your views and take a moment with me to re-examine what we think of as our greatest natural resources.



My day-to-day work on the challenge course here at Prairie Woods brings me in contact with hundreds of young people—all with different backgrounds, different personalities, different attitudes and different lives—but all with the same huge potential. I see every day that our greatest natural resource here or anywhere is our young people.

Now, if we look again at our mission statement with this new perspective, we come to realize that WE have not only a shared responsibility as a whole but an individual commitment and responsibility to use, manage and preserve those young people—our greatest resource!

We can work really, really hard in using, managing, and preserving our other natural resources but if we neglect the resources we have in our young people, our mission ends with us and will be lost.

As with any other natural resource, everyone can and has to do their part. As a staff, we will do our best when the kids are here to open their minds to discovering what their part of the mission is. And we often see glimpses of that in the short time they are here. We will plant the seed to continue the mission. We might not see the results that day, or even that year, but the seed will take root and grow. Possibly with results that we can't even imagine. ("Natural Resources" is continued on pg. 9)

Environmental Education Update

BRAIN'S NATURAL HABITAT

by Anne Dybsetter

Believe it or not, nature is good for everyone! "Children's experience in nature is not a luxury, but a necessity for functional personalities," said Dr. Stephen Kellert, Yale professor, at the Children in Nature Conference on November 6 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

On November 13, I had the opportunity to present "The Brain's Natural Habitat: Nature-Based Experiences and Life-Long Brain Wellness," at PACT 4's Community Conference on the Brain in Willmar. My co-presenter was Deb Schmitzerle of Kandiyohi County Public Health and volunteer creator of PWELC's butterfly garden. Our research for the presentation showed us yet again that dwindling connections between children and nature are a significant--and growing--concern. I hope you will take time to learn more, discuss with your friends and family. . . and then get outside for your "green hour."

What are the facts?

- √ Children's time outdoors and in nature has declined dramatically in recent years. One study found a 50% decline in just six years, between 1997 and 2003, in children age 9-12.¹ Children age 8 to 18 spend 6.5 hours per day on average with electronic media.²



- √ Outdoor experiences help with cognitive development (responding to patterns, systems, using information from three dimensions and five senses). Concentration, attention, and memory improve during and after activities in natural, green environments. Attention-deficit symptoms are reduced.³
- √ Outdoor experiences increase physical fitness, health, and children's sense of mastery, competence, and confidence.
- √ Children who participate in free play outdoors use skills in decision-making, conflict resolution, and self control.

Make room for nature in your child's day! See greenhour.org, childrenandnature.org, and prairiewoodselc.org for more.

Sources: 1. University of Maryland study 2. Kaiser Family Foundation 3. Stephen Kaplan 2005; Frances Kuo and Andrea Faber-Taylor 2004



Shooting Range Update

1ST ANNUAL YOUTH MENTOR HUNT

by Ryan Block

Upon entering Prairie Woods on October 25th, you would have been greeted by signs that said, "YOUTH MENTOR HUNT IN PROGRESS." That day marked the start of an annual event sponsored by the Minnesota DNR and Pheasants Forever.

Three young people and their chaperones traveled from the metro area to Kandiyohi County to participate in the event.

They started the day in the barn, where they were served an old-fashioned breakfast and met the



mentors and the dog handlers. Each of the young people was paired up with a mentor and a dog handler from the Kandiyohi Pheasants Forever chapter. After breakfast we went to the Shooting Range for instruction on proper wing shooting technique, which also provided a time for the mentors to interact with their hunter to get to know them better. After the session at the range, the three hunters and their new companions were off to the field for a day of pheasant hunting. One group walked a portion of Prairie Woods property where they spent a couple of hours hunting.

What a sight it was to see a young person dressed in blaze orange being mentored in safe, ethical, wholesome, outdoor activity, in a reconstructed portion of tall-grass prairie. There were only a couple of birds harvested on the day, but I think that the young people learned that the success of the hunt isn't measured by the amount of game in the bag, but by the memories that were made. One of the parents of the hunters summed it up well: "It exceeded my expectations. Matt, Rodney and the dogs provided a field experience for Kyle that I'm confident will carry with him for a life-time, and continue to fuel his desire."

I would like to thank all of those who made the first annual youth mentor hunt a success.

Holidays at the Pioneer Cabin

by Teri Wermerskirchen

That was fun! Can we come back tomorrow?? inquired a boy at the end of his Pioneer Christmas....

Taking a page from Laura Ingalls Wilder's *By the Shores of Silver Lake*, we spent an afternoon at the PWELC log cabin as they would have in the pioneer days. It was a simpler time. There was no store-bought greenery; instead, the children cut evergreen boughs and made swags with pinecones, cinnamon sticks, dried fruit and herbs. Those pioneer children didn't get piles of store-bought gifts either, just a hand-made gift or two made by a family member with love and care. So we made corn cob dolls, yarn dolls, cut slices of cedar (with a two handled saw), decorated wooden nickels and even made brooms from prairie grass. Then, to the sweet sound of Jerry Saetveit's fiddle, we sang Christmas songs while drinking hot apple cider (off the wood stove they had stoked) and ate lefse and flat bread spread with the butter they had just churned...

But that wasn't all the fun and learning at the Log Cabin. Earlier this fall, third graders from Kennedy Elementary (Willmar) traveled back in time to help Anders prepare for his Swedish bride.

Afterward, a teacher remarked that it was her best field trip in 33 years! She commented on how the experience really prepared the students for their upcoming units and how the students kept making connections between their personal experience as pioneers and the readings. Using all their senses and feeling as if they were truly 'experiencing' a piece of history was such a wonderful way to learn. But the comments from the kids themselves were the best!



Dear Staff at PWELC,

I loved the corn leave dolls, and I liked cooking and preparing the bride's arrival! It was fun dressing in the 1888 clothes, too. I always play with my Buzz Saw. I hope I can come back because I love the food. Thank you for the fun toys, dances and food recipes, too. They will stay with me forever. Oh, I loved the wagon pull, too.



YOUNG SPORTSMEN LEGACY FUND

A late summer tradition continued this year with the arrival of Bill, Jeff, Marissa and Marshall Huff at the range. Bill Huff and Jeff Huff (father and son) have been bringing their family out to enjoy the sporting clays range at Prairie Woods over the past several years during their summer visits to Green Lake. Seeing three generations of the Huff family enjoying (and ribbing) each other on the sporting clays range exemplifies the value of sporting traditions for friends and family.

For several years the Huffs have contributed equipment for the range (gun safe, shotguns, .22s). This year Bill and Jeff donated funds to help build a Young Sportsmen Legacy Fund to encourage youth participation in shooting sports and conservation. If you would like to join the Huffs in contributing to the Young Sportsmen Legacy Fund contact Dave or Ryan (320-354-5894).



GET READY TO SKI!

Skiers this winter will enjoy some of the recent trail upgrades completed over the summer at Prairie Woods. With the help of equipment and operator time provided by the

DNR, we were able to help shape and improve trail sections around Kettle Lake, Elmers Loop, and the farmsite trail. Trail improvements were coordinated by Mike Bundy. Thanks also to Evan Armstrong, Eagle Scout candidate, and his crew for completing a new trail section near the wind turbine. Ski trails will be open during daylight hours throughout the winter. There is no fee for trail use, but skiers are encouraged to purchase a MN State Ski Pass which helps to provide funding for ski trail grooming and maintenance.

Ski and snowshoe rental is available. Please call ahead to reserve equipment.



THE LAUNCH OF YEAR 2

by Anne Dybsetter

Energy is a hot topic. That much was clear as one hundred Youth Energy Summit participants listed energy issues: shortages, high prices, jobs, climate change, health, and, yes, *survival*.

Now in its second year, YES! is taking advantage of the fact that energy *solutions* in our region may begin simply: in community conversations. The YES! program is designed to prompt more than just talk, however: Teams undertake an Energy Action Project in their communities between September and April.

YES! teams met to kick off the new season on September 23 at PWELC. In October, YES! staff met with each team in their own communities as they brainstormed project ideas and community assets. On November 10, teams met again at Prairie Woods for action-planning and a resource fair. Focused conversations among all participants, complete with tablecloth doodles and playdough sculptures, yielded inspirational ideas. Here are some conversation outcomes, in their own words:

Q: *How can I be involved in energy solutions?*

Lead by example.

Change the way we think.

Educate ourselves and others about energy usage and efficiency. Support the future of the world.

Q: *Why is the work we are doing important?*

It's shaping OUR future—we're setting the trend.

Make sure people are aware of how connected they are in the world, and how much change they can make.

We have the moral weight of youth.



2008-2009 YES teams are: Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City, Canby, Glencoe-Silver Lake, Lac qui Parle Valley, Marshall, Montevideo, Morris, New London-Spicer, Redwood Valley, Springfield, Willmar and Yellow Medicine East. YES! is a program of PWELC and the Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF) that uses hands-on education and energy action projects to address energy opportunities and issues in the region's communities. More information is at www.prairiewoodselc.org/yes.html.



Update: EVERYTHING UNDER THE SUN BY 2010

In past newsletters we have chronicled the addition of wind turbines, solar hot water, composting toilets, biomass heaters and bio diesel processors. Prairie Woods is now approximately 75% of the way to 100% renewable energy with our wind and solar electrical generation. We have the potential to exceed 95% renewable heat through the use of biomass and solar heating.

Recent developments include a bank of 12 solar panels installed by Empire Plumbing & Heating to heat the maintenance



building, an additional 2 kilowatt of solar electric on the education building, and the use of pelletized crop residue as an alternative to heating with corn.

SOLAR THERMAL: As with most projects at Prairie Woods, the solar heating panels at the maintenance building resulted from a collaborative effort. The solar panels, in a previous life, had heated a swimming pool on the Willmar Regional Treatment Center Campus (now MinnWest Technology Campus). Partners in this project included: Steve Salzer, General Manager of MinnWest Technology Campus, Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTS), Kandiyohi County and Empire Plumbing & Heating. The panels are now plumbed into a 450 gallon reservoir connected to a fan coil heater in the shop. Look for a report in the Spring *Warbler* about the performance of the solar panels.

SOLAR ELECTRIC: We were also able to add another 2 kw of solar electric panels this summer, bringing our total array to 4 kw. The project was assisted through the Minnesota Solar Rebate Program, Great River Energy and Kandiyohi County. The solar panels allow us to increase our power production during daylight hours, which are typically peak use times for programs and offices.

BIOMASS HEATING: Our corn-fired boiler system and stoves are purring along on pelletized crop residue from Sunrise Agra-Fuels of Bird Island. The pellets are a mixture of sunflower hulls, waste wood and soybean stalks.

Our goal at Prairie Woods is to demonstrate readily available "green" technology that might be applied by individuals, schools, small businesses and farmers in our region. Conservation, energy efficiency and the use of locally available renewable fuels (including wind, solar, biomass and geothermal) can benefit the local economy as well as the environment.

WHAT'S NEXT??

HOW ABOUT AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE?

Prairie Woods already uses an electric golf cart (donated by the Dickman Family) to reduce fossil fuel use around the site—but our next project will be to convert a small truck to run on electricity. We are currently seeking a small Chevy S10 or Ranger pickup for the conversion. Tracy Tebben's students at New London-Spicer High School are lined up to remove the engine, fuel tank, radiator, etc. and fabricate battery trays.

The vehicle will then be handed over to students at the U of M School of Electrical Engineering under the direction of Professor Paul Imbritson for the installation of the electrical components: batteries, motor, inverter and controls. Paul's students have helped us in the past by building a trailer-mounted solar array. Tracy's students have also helped with various projects over the years. We are excited and truly grateful to have their assistance with our latest renewable energy project at Prairie Woods.

SPECIAL HUNT 2008

Participants in the Annual Special Deer Hunt, 2008, were Aaron Cross,

Mark
Mertens,
Scott Edman,
Donald Ivy,
Charlie
Roethemeier,
Al Hoffman,
Jeremy
Carlson. Two
bucks were
harvested.





COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED: 354-5894

Winter Adventure: Cross Country Skiing *Grades 4-8**Tuesday, January 13, 3:45 pm - 5:30 pm**\$8 per student*

Get outside and explore this winter! Hit the trails and have an adventure on cross country skis. Prairie Woods has numerous miles of groomed trails. Instruction and all equipment provided.

Winter Survival at the Pioneer Cabin *Grade 2 and up*

Come to the Log Cabin and see if you could have survived a winter as a pioneer. No running water, no central heat, no computer!!! Instead we'll be cutting wood for the wood stove, using candles for light, and cooking over a wood stove. Hear real-life survival stories of how the local homesteaders made it through some rough winters. Then, if there is enough snow –maybe we'll put on some skis....

*Thursday, January 15, 2009, 3:45 pm - 5:30 pm**\$8 per person***Partners in Climb** *Grades 3-7**Tuesday, January 27, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm**\$12 per person*

It's all about teamwork. Find a friend and head out to Prairie Woods ELC. This program will be using the climbing wall and games to explore teamwork and what it takes to be a good friend.

Winter Family Fun Day *Everyone welcome!**Sunday, February 8, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm**Free admission. Rent skis & snowshoes for a buck a piece (\$2 per pair)*

Celebrate winter at Prairie Woods with fun outdoor activities for everyone in the family: snowshoeing, cross country skiing, winter birding, and winter animal tracking. Indoors, warm up by a fire and enjoy the climbing wall, refreshments, and more. (No registration necessary.)

Winter Adventure: Cross Country Skiing *Grades 4-8**Monday, February 23, 3:45 pm - 5:30 pm**\$8 per student*

Get outside and explore this winter! Hit the trails and have an adventure on cross country skis. Prairie Woods has numerous miles of groomed trails. Instruction and all equipment provided.

Winter Adventure: Snowshoe Tracking *Grades 4-8**Monday, March 2, 3:45 pm - 5:30 pm**\$8 per student*

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.

**After School Archery Club** *Age 10 and up**Thursdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26, 3:45 pm - 5:15 pm**\$30 per person*

Lots of fun learning and practicing the skill of archery. We will be using compound bows to improve our skills. We will play games, do Olympic style target scoring, all while aiming to have a great time.

Climbing Club *Grades 2-6**Thursdays, March 12, 19, 26, and April 2, 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm**\$35 per person*

This is a favorite. Join the climbing club and get to climb walls, learn to belay, learn about safety and equipment used for rock climbing. This is a great time!

Hunting Adventure Club *Age 12 and up**Thursdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 3:45 pm - 5:45 pm**\$45 per person*

There are SO many skills that are needed to be a safe, ethical and efficient hunter, and in this class we will go over some of those skills. In this four day class, we will spend the first day going over general outdoor skills: orienteering, animal signs, survival skills, ethics, etc. In the next three days we will get into more skills that have to do with specific game: big Game, waterfowl, upland birding. We will be outdoors for most of this class rain or shine so come prepared.

**Base Camp** *Grades 5-9**Tuesdays, April 7, 14, 21, 28, 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm**\$40 per person*

This is where it all begins. At base camp we will experience and train on Prairie Woods' exciting challenge course. As we have a great time challenging ourselves on the challenge course, we will also be training to help others and receive a Junior Facilitator certificate.

To the Top Club *Grades 3-7**Saturday, April 11, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**Cost \$20 per person*

Join this club and be among a group that can say they have made it "To the Top" of the various events here at Prairie Woods. We will be doing our best to make it to the top of the indoor climbing wall, the Flying Squirrel, the Giant's Ladder and the Outdoor Climbing Wall. It will be a fun and rewarding time.

Earth Day Celebration *All ages**Saturday, April 18, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm**Open to the public at no cost*

A fun experience for the whole family. Booths, exhibits, and activities offer information about water quality in your community, energy efficiency, land management, and much more. Enjoy food, music, and information about "greening" your life. (No registration necessary.)



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED: 354-5894

Beginner Archery Class Age 10 and up

Monday, April 20, 5:30 pm -7:00 pm

\$10 per person

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 provided.

Survivor-Prairie Woods Grades 3-6

Tuesday, April 21, 3:30 pm -5:30 pm

\$12 per person

The tribe has spoken. We want you here to challenge yourself at Prairie Woods. See if you can survive the challenge course and be a Prairie Woods survivor.

Pirates of the Carabiner 3rd grade and up

Saturday, April 25, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

\$15 per person

Rrrr Maties!! This is your chance to come to Prairie Woods become a Pirate of the Carabiner. We will be sailing in the pirate ship, climbing the cargo net, walking the plank, and searching for (and hopefully finding) pirate's treasure.

Women's Shooting Sports Sampler Ages 12 and up

Saturday, April 25, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

\$50 per person

Always wanted to try shooting a shotgun, a rifle or a bow and arrow? Or maybe you just want to improve on some shooting sports skills that you already have. Why not try them all in a fun, safe and friendly atmosphere? We have a sporting clays range, rifle range, Olympic and 3-D archery ranges and trained staff to teach and lead you through each event.

Advanced Archery Class Age 10 and up

Monday, April 27, 5:30 pm -7:00 pm

\$10 per person

Already attended the beginner class or looking to hone your skills a little more? Then join us for the advanced archery class. In this class we will be taking a closer look at our form and technique and how to take care of your equipment. We will get into ranging distances and down field shooting. All equipment is provided, but feel free to bring your own.

Clay Busters at the Shooting Range Age 12 and up

Tuesdays & Thursdays, April 28 & 30, May 5 & 7, 5:00 pm - Dark

\$55 per student

Great opportunity for youth to improve their ability and learn new skills, with NRA and 4-H certified instructors. Each session we will work on form and technique and shoot a round of sporting clays, which is 25 targets. We will emphasize safe and ethical firearm practices. All shells, clay targets, shotguns and instruction will be provided at the Westby Shooting Range. (You may bring your own firearm) Questions? Call Ryan Block At Prairie Woods. (Length of program will depend on the number of participants.)

Spring at the Pioneer Cabin Grade 2 and up

Help the pioneers with their busy springtime activities: preparing the garden, beating rugs, churning butter... Spring cleaning has never been so fun! Then go for a buggy ride and make a toy to take home!

Thursday, May 7, 2009, 3:45 pm -5:30 pm

\$8 per person

After School Canoeing for Students Grades 4-8

Monday, May 11, 3:45 pm - 5:30 pm

\$10 per student

Get ready for a summer on your favorite lake or river! Learn paddling, steering, and navigation techniques, then practice your skills on the water. Instruction and all equipment provided.

Full Moon Canoeing for Families All ages 7+ welcome

Monday, May 11, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

\$6 per person.

Enjoy a spring evening with a relaxing paddle on peaceful water. Equipment and basic instruction provided. Children must be at least 7, and accompanied by an adult.



Birthday Parties in the Log Cabin

Looking for a unique idea for a birthday party? Why not celebrate your birthday like Laura Ingalls Wilder and other pioneer girls and boys? 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 a variety of activities. Call PWELC at 354-5894 to plan your pioneer birthday party.

"Natural Resources" continued from page 4 (*Challenge Course Update by Deb Anderson*)

With our challenge course programs, we work on concepts and life skills such as teambuilding, communication, community, problem-solving, courage, motivation & success, self esteem and more, that will develop the resources in our youth to be the best they can be.

With most of our natural resources the future is grim and dark. With the natural resources we have in our youth, our greatest resource, the future has the potential to be incredibly bright. Thanks for your help and all you do to use, manage, and preserve the resources we have in our youth.



PRAIRIE WOODS
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

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

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WHY BE A MEMBER?

- ◆ Know you are supporting programs you believe in at an organization that is important to your community.
- ◆ Receive information and invitations to special events at Prairie Woods.
- ◆ Benefit from discounts on equipment rentals and programs.
- ◆ Continue to receive the *Warbler* newsletter three times a year.

*Thank you for
your support.*

Join Us!

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

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- ☐ \$100 to \$499
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Questions or comments? Please call us at 320-354-5894 or e-mail us at pwelc@co.kandiyohi.mn.us