



# PRAIRIE WOODS *Warbler*



A publication of Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center in cooperation with Prairie Country Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council

VOLUME 14

SPRING 2008

ISSUE 1

### **Trustees and Governing Board Members**

Ron Erpelding, President  
Cindy Westby, Vice-President  
Mary Merlin-Pelkey, Secretary  
Joel Schmidt, Treasurer  
Jeff Danielson  
Allison & Luke Geiger  
Dr. Robert Kaiser  
Bradley Pederson  
Jim Tetzloff  
Ben Thoma

### **Governing Board only**

Richard Larson  
Harlan Madsen

### **Trustee Board Members**

Betty Croonquist  
Richard Falk  
Steve Hage  
Bob Haines  
Bob & Pauline Halvorson  
Bill Johnson  
John & Mary Lindstrom  
Dr. Steve Martinka  
Dr. Jim & Colleen Michels  
Brad Michelson  
Doug Mossberg  
Dennis & Ruthanne Neeser  
Karen Schneider  
Denise Smith  
Dr. Roger & Kay Strand  
Dr. Jim & Marilyn Tiede  
Paul & Sandra Vollan

### **Staff**

Dave Pederson,  
Executive Director  
Deb Anderson,  
Challenge Course  
Coordinator  
Ryan Block, Sporting  
Programs Facilitator  
Anne Dybsetter,  
Environmental Education  
Coordinator  
Ann Phillips,  
Office Manager  
Teri Wermerskirchen,  
Time Travel  
Jeffrey Vetsch, Building &  
Grounds Steward

## YES! BROCCOLI, LIGHTBULBS, WIND, AND MUCH MORE: YOUTH ENERGY SUMMIT NEARS CULMINATION

*"We had no recycling in the school to start with, except some teachers had boxes under their desks."*



*"We want to demonstrate a green community."*



*"We plan to educate the community by physically showing the amount of energy lost through basic appliances and bringing solutions to these areas of lost energy."*

This school year, Youth Energy Summit teams have been taking on significant energy issues all across our region. When YES wraps up on April 19, the Youth Energy Summit judging panel will hear stories of baby broccoli sprouting in a new community greenhouse, of solar-powered Christmas lights, and of presentations about energy efficiency to school boards and building committees. In this friendly "co-opetition," who will be the big winner?

The Youth Energy Summit Award Ceremony will be held Saturday, April 19, at Prairie Woods' Earth Day celebration. From 11:30 to 12:30, the Ceremony will feature brief presentations by the YES teams, music, and the awarding of fabulous prizes.

Teams of youth, first gathered together in September 2007, have been pursuing energy

action projects in their home communities throughout the school year. YES is a program of Prairie Woods and Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF), in partnership

with many others. Cheryl Glaeser of SWIF commented, "The projects that the students have engaged in have not only helped them learn about energy issues and opportunities, but have also given them the opportunity to



"YES!" continued on page 2

## *Upcoming Events at Prairie Woods*

SAY YES! TO EARTH DAY ..... SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 8 AM TO 1 PM  
ARCHAEOLOGY DAY ..... SATURDAY, MAY 3, 12 PM TO 4 PM  
RECYCLED OUTDOOR GEAR SALE ..... SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 8 AM TO 12 PM  
JJM VICTORY RUN ..... SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 9 AM  
YOUR FIELD TRIP OR SPECIAL EVENT ..... CALL US TO SCHEDULE!

LOOKING FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS? SEE PAGES 8 AND 9.

PRAIRIEWOODSEL.C.ORG  
320-354-5894



## Notes from the Executive Director

by Dave Pederson, Executive Director

Welcome to the Spring edition of the *Warbler*.

I am excited to share some of the good news from Prairie Woods.



Here's the abbreviated version, but you'll want to read all of the articles:

We are very pleased to have embarked on a partnership with Southwest Initiative Foundation to establish and expand the Youth Energy Summit (YES!). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is partnering with Prairie Woods this year to place a Minn-Aqua intern at Prairie Woods. Pheasants Forever has helped us to acquire a great set of teaching tools. The Dickman Family has donated an electric golf cart, which will be charged up with wind and solar power. The Minnesota Department of Commerce,

Great River Energy, Kandiyohi County and West Central Clean Energy Resource Team are helping us to install a 2 kilowatt solar array. Minnesota Corn Growers Association, Bushmills Ethanol and a host of volunteers are helping PWELC Trustee Doug Mossberg to put together an exhibit on the history of corn. Our annual Earth Day event in collaboration with Shakopee Creek, Chippewa River, and Crow River Watershed Districts and many other partners promises to be bigger and better again this year. And that's not all!

So, lots of good reading ahead. I hope that you enjoy learning about the progress and service that you are helping to support at Prairie Woods. Please stop out for a visit or give us a call soon. Help spread the word that Prairie Woods is an educational and recreational treasure for our region.

Thanks for being a partner with Prairie Woods!

*Dave*

### "YES:" SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE FOUNDATION PARTNERS WITH PWELC

continued from page 1

engage in their communities. This is exactly what we were hoping for."

In January, the teams reconvened at the YES Winter Workshop. Minnesota West Community and Technical College hosted the gathering, which featured ethanol demonstrations, solar technology, and a careers panel.

The Youth Energy Summit and Co-opetition is in its pilot year in 2007-2008. Surveys and interviews of participants, plus feedback from other partners, will be springboards for launching year two of YES.

"YES!" continued on page 9

## 2008 Earth Day Celebration

# Say YES! to Earth Day

Saturday, April 19, 8 am to 1 pm

Free Omelet Breakfast, 8 am to 10 am

Ethanol Issues and Opportunities Panel, 10:30 am

- ◆ Informational Booths and Displays
- ◆ Free Trees
- ◆ Free Nitrate Testing: Bring a cup of well water
- ◆ Kids' activities
- ◆ Clean water lifestyles
- ◆ Renewable Energy Demonstrations
- ◆ Much more!

Plus, be inspired and amazed. . .

Youth Energy Summit Award Ceremony, 11:30 am

Free! All are welcome.





## WESTBY FAMILY GIFT SPURS

### MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING EFFORTS.

An \$8000 gift from Cindy Westby and Family in honor of Gary Westby has been earmarked to help provide marketing and membership recruitment tools for Prairie Woods. Gary Westby was an avid and tireless promoter of Prairie Woods, and it is entirely fitting that this great gift from Cindy and their family be used to continue to get more people connected to Prairie Woods. The promotions committee, chaired by Cindy, is hard at work. Look for updated brochures, a new display for conferences and shows, a DVD, an updated website and incentives for first-time groups. If

photo: Jim Williams, Wayzata



you would like to be involved in helping promote Prairie Woods, please give us a call at 320-354-5894.

## UPDATE ON

### *EVERYTHING UNDER THE SUN!*

One step at a time, Prairie Woods is moving to 100% renewable energy. Thanks to a grant from West Central CERTS (Clean Energy Resource Teams) and assistance from Kandiyohi County, Prairie Woods will take one more step with the installation of a 2 kilowatt solar array this spring.

The system will accommodate an additional 2 kilowatts to be added in the future. Other solar projects planned include a solar thermal space heater for the climbing room and a solar thermal pre-heater for the air-handling system at the education building.



## DICKMAN FAMILY GIFT

### TRANSPORTS PRAIRIE WOODS

Thanks to Marjorie Dickman and the family of Charles Dickman, Prairie Woods was able to purchase an electric golf cart. The golf cart, charged by solar and wind-generated electricity, will help shuttle visitors and staff around the campus and make our facility more accessible for people with limited mobility. Ann Ploeger, daughter of Charles, noted that the family had decided that the golf cart was a perfect gift in honor of their father, who had been an avid golfer. Please join us in thanking the Dickmans for their thoughtful gift to help others to enjoy Prairie Woods. A previous gift from Charles and Marjorie Dickman helped us to launch Project Eco-Voyageur.



## DUCK ON A STICK!

### NO, ITS NOT THE STATE FAIR. . .

. . . it's another partnership between Prairie Woods and Pheasants Forever. Thanks to a DNR Conservation Partners grant obtained by Kandiyohi County Pheasants Forever, Prairie Woods has acquired a collection of waterfowl and upland game species that will include over 20 birds when completed. Thanks to Matt Holland and Pheasants Forever for helping Prairie Woods to obtain this unique set of teaching and learning tools.



*Please Consider Prairie Woods*

IN YOUR ANNUAL CHARITABLE GIVING, AND IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING.



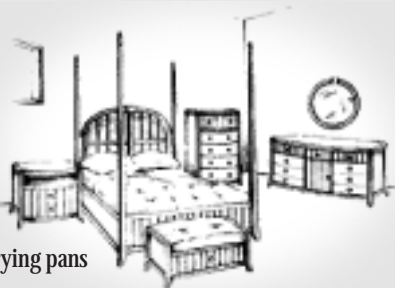
## Featured Giving Opportunity

### GOT STUFF?

#### SEEKING COMMON HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Summer interns will be housed onsite at Prairie Woods for the first time starting in May 2008. To prepare the farmhouse for their arrival, we are seeking to furnish two bedrooms, a living room, and a kitchen. Can you help?

- Single bedframes (up to 4)
- Chests of drawers (up to 4)
- Sofa (up to 2)
- Living room chairs (2-3)
- Coffee table (1-2)
- Lamps (table or floor, 3-4)
- Kitchen chairs (4-6)



- Cooking pots, sauce pans, frying pans
- Set of silverware
- Set of dishes (plates & bowls)
- Drinking glasses
- Basic kitchen implements: wooden spoons, spatulas, ladels, kitchen knives, cheese grater, pizza cutter, vegetable peeler

Call us at 320-354-5894 if you have items. Thank you!

## Planning an Event?

- CLASS REUNIONS
- FAMILY GATHERINGS
- WEDDING RECEPTIONS
- CORPORATE RETREATS

### Prairie Woods: A Natural Choice

A unique setting with exciting options such as the Challenge Course, climbing wall, Big Canoe, sporting clays, self-guided interpretive trails, Time Travel or guided naturalist walks.



Proceeds from facility rentals help support youth programs at PWELC.

# ANNUAL RECYCLED OUTDOOR GEAR SALE!

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 8 AM TO NOON

Donate lightly-used outdoor gear and recreational equipment in good condition: boats, backpacks, trailers, fishing tackle, canoes, camping gear, fishing and hunting equipment. . . . Here's a great chance to get those little-used treasures out of your garage and basement, and into the hands of budding outdoor enthusiasts.

Call to arrange pick-up or delivery. 320-354-5894.

## MINNESOTA WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION

### HOLDS ANNUAL HABITAT DAY

Once again, PWELC's exhibit hall was filled with the happy noise of hammering, screw guns and friendly banter as volunteers from Prairie Pothole Chapter of Minnesota Waterfowl Association helped kids, parents and wood duck enthusiasts of all ages assemble approximately 40 wood duck boxes.

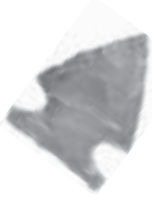


Roger Strand, PWELC Trustee and conservationist of the highest order, provided excellent information on wood duck natural history and the importance of predator guards. Thanks, Prairie Pothole Chapter, for

continuing the great annual tradition of habitat day at Prairie Woods. The Prairie Pothole Chapter is famous for raising funds for habitat projects during Prairie Pothole Day, held annually on the second weekend in September at Stony Ridge Farm, just north of Prairie Woods on Highway 71. Mark your calendars for next fall.



## ARCHAEOLOGY DAY: MAY 3, 12 PM TO 4 PM



The sixth annual Archaeology Day will be held at Prairie Woods ELC on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from noon to 4 pm. It will be a fun-filled afternoon with something for everyone:

- ◆ The “History of Corn” exhibit unveiling. (See article at right.)
- ◆ The outdoor American Indian history site, with self-guided signs and new booklet, will be open north of the log cabin.
- ◆ Robert Lusteck, an archaeologist and expert on corn history, will present a keynote about *Zea mays* (corn, that is) over the millennia, in the Earl B. Olson addition at 2 pm.
- ◆ Exhibits and demonstrations of American Indian arts and crafts, plus a flint knapper making stone tools.

A new informational booklet for the American Indian history site will be introduced at Archaeology Day. The booklet gives visitors a more in-depth understanding of the lifeways of the people who made their homes on this land



over the last 10,000 years. Special thanks to artist Richard Harris for providing beautiful stipple illustrations (left) for the booklet.

## Volunteer Opportunities

*Share special talents and interests at PWELC!*

- ◆ **FEATURED OPPORTUNITY:** Plant and help maintain a “History Garden,” with areas showing examples of different eras in agriculture.
- ◆ Help to design and build the first student cabins
- ◆ Help to design and construct displays for the exhibit hall.
- ◆ Recruit new members
- ◆ Become a member of the Site Committee, Program Advisory Board, or Promotions & Fundraising Committee
- ◆ Join the prairie restoration and prairie burn crew

## HISTORY OF CORN EXHIBIT TO OPEN IN MAY

Did you know that corn was domesticated and developed by Native Americans thousands of years ago? And did you know that today corn is used in everything from gravy to soap to crayons?

This spring, an indoor exhibit will open at PWELC that will teach visitors about the history of corn. Trustee Doug Mossberg has developed the exhibit and led the way in garnering support for the project. Minnesota Corn Growers and Bushmills

Ethanol Plant (others pending) have made significant financial contributions. Many individuals in the community have contributed ideas, artifacts, and design expertise to the exhibit.



The corn exhibit will be in the entrance to the Linder-sponsored Treehouse in PWELC’s Education Building.

The exhibit will consist of three parts:

- ◆ Corn’s origins in Mexico about 10,000 years ago, its improvement through crop selection by Native American farmers, and the Native American trade networks that took corn all over the Americas.
- ◆ Hybrid corn in the US in the 1920s to 1940s, sometimes considered among the greatest developments of the last millennia.
- ◆ Modern corn, covering millions of acres and with thousands of uses. What are the issues and opportunities presented by this crop, which is such a large part of our lives?

Make plans to visit the “History of Corn” after its unveiling this spring, scheduled for Archaeology Day on May 3.

If you have artifacts you would like to donate or loan to the corn exhibit, such as stone corn grinders, small 1940s corn shellers, hand held corn planters, small corn drying racks, American Indian digging sticks or hoes or rakes, please let us know. We also need leather American Indian clothing and pelts. Call Doug Mossberg 320-354-5522.



## Challenge Course Update

by Deb Anderson

### THE LETTER "E"

Most of the time when we think about a challenge course we talk about "C" words to describe the experience. We talk about courage, communication, challenges, cooperation, community, culture, etc. These are all great words to describe opportunities and experiences on our challenge

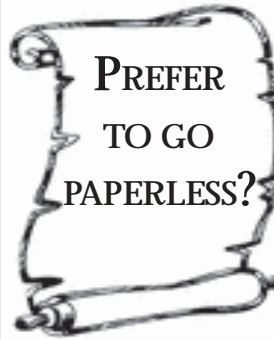
course here at Prairie Woods.

Today I would like to talk about a different set of words: the "E"



words. Encouraged, engaged, embraced, and educated. Everyone who comes to Prairie Woods is encouraged. Encouraged to try new things, encouraged to do their best, encouraged to help others do their best, encouraged to really be open to the positive change that can come from a day of challenges on the course. From that group encouragement we get engaged. It is not hard to get participants engaged with the fun, positive, encouraging atmosphere that happens as people step outside their comfort zones and challenge themselves to do their best. As participants journey through the experience they are embraced. They are embraced by staff who see great things happen every day, they are embraced by group leaders for seeing real change, they are embraced by peers and fellow participants for successes and walking with them through their experience, and they embrace themselves as they come to the end of this experience with a new sense of self esteem and success. At the end of the day we can say that everyone will come away educated. There is so much to learn when working on our challenge course together. Being encouraged, engaged, and embraced is a great way to become educated.

Make your reservation now to come and spend some "E" time with us at Prairie Woods!



Send us your e-mail address to help us improve communication about programs, special events and volunteer opportunities. Meanwhile, let us know if you would like to receive your *Warbler* electronically to save mailing expenses and reduce paper use.

[pwelc@co.kandiyohi.mn.us](mailto:pwelc@co.kandiyohi.mn.us)

Prairie Woods will never release e-mail addresses to other parties.

### PRAIRIE WOODS TO HOST DNR MINNAQUA INTERN

In a first-time partnership with the Minnesota DNR, Prairie Woods will host a summer 2008 intern for the MinnAqua program. MinnAqua is a statewide effort to educate young people about fishing, conservation of aquatic habitats, and lake and river ecology.

The west-central Minnesota MinnAqua intern will be Eric Dubblede, a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. In his hometown of Granite Falls, Eric spent 4 years as a swimming instructor, lifeguard, and assistant lifeguard

manager in charge of scheduling and training at the Kilowatt Community Center. In high school Eric was team captain in both wrestling and tennis, and active in FFA. Eric enjoys the outdoors and grew up fishing with his family.

Look for Eric traveling throughout west-central Minnesota doing fishing programs on waterways near you.



*Immersed in Learning,  
Morning, Noon, and Night. . .*

ASK ABOUT MULTI-DAY, OVERNIGHT PROGRAMS FOR GROUPS OF ALL SIZES.



## Shooting Range Update

by Ryan Block

### SHOOTING SPORTS OPPORTUNITIES

Prairie Woods offers a wide variety of opportunities for Sportsmen and women. We also encourage groups and individuals without shooting-sports experience to come try something new. Prairie Woods' trained staff safely teach and encourage all ages.

This is an exciting time for the archery program at Prairie Woods. In addition to Olympic-style archery, we are adding a 3-D walking course. We have 12 whitetailed deer targets, and hope to have them in the field and functioning this spring. We anticipate adding more targets as we receive them. We've offered a full range of summer archery classes: Beginner Archery, Advanced Archery, and Archery Club.



In April we open the Westby Educational Shooting Range for operation. This summer there will be a youth sporting clays league, and call-in reservations at the range. If

you have a party of four or more and want to shoot a round of sporting clays, call us at least two days in advance, and we will do the best we can to accommodate you.

Call Prairie Woods today to schedule a time at the range or sign up for a class. Or talk to Ryan at 320-354-5894 about customizing a program to incorporate several of these opportunities into one experience.

## WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY

Popcorn, skiing, snowshoeing, birding, climbing and conversation: truly the ingredients of a good day.

Winter Family Fun Day brought those ingredients together on February 17. Were you here? Make a note not to miss PWELC's next offering of free family fun: Earth Day, April 19, 8 am to 1 pm.



## Time Travel Update

by Teri Wermerskirchen

### LOCAL FOLKS BRING HISTORY TO LIFE

BY SHARING TREASURES AND CRAFTS OF THEIR HERITAGE

Are you proud of your heritage? Do you have a craft or skill to share? The Time Travel program is a unique venue for sharing your gifts. It is a program where children learn about our history by living it--becoming pioneers and homesteaders for a day. It's all about learning by doing.

While it may seem in our high-tech world that many crafts/skills are in jeopardy of being lost forever, in the Time Travel program, we showcase them. Storytelling,



quilting, knitting, knife making, music making, spinning, cooking etc....these are crafts the children love to learn. Any craft, knowledge, or skill that pertains to the 1800s is helpful in bringing history alive for the children. For example, Jerry Saetveit showed the children how he makes his own knives. He also plays the fiddle and penny whistle (among many other instruments). Dean Mortenson showed the children how he loads and shoots a muzzle loader (with tin-foil bullets) and how to play a psalmni chord. Deanna Mortenson showed the children how to knit and make yarn dolls. Arlys Ousman is a wonderful storyteller and can say grace in Swedish... Perhaps you have a craft, skill or treasure from your heritage that you could share with the youth?

Help us bring history alive for the children with this unique opportunity to share your gifts. In addition to helping as a re-enactor, the program is dependant on donations for our props and costumes. Do you have something in your attic that could be used in this educational program?? Would anyone be willing to sew some bonnets or skirts for costumes?? Also, we would like to start a garden and plant some lilac and berry bushes at the site. If you can help with this please let us know.

Learn more about working with Time Travels while enjoying a light lunch in PWELC's cozy log cabin on Tues, April 15, 11 am.

Or come to Latte Da Coffee Shop on Wed, April 16 at 9:30 am.

Or just call PWELC 354-5894.



## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED: 354-5894

### High Adventure Day Camps

- Thursday, June 12, 9 am to 4 pm, OR
- Thursday, July 10, 9 am to 4 pm, OR
- Wednesday, July 23, 9 am to 4 pm, OR
- Tuesday, Aug 12, 9 am to 4 pm, OR
- Tuesday, Aug 26, 9 am to 4 pm, OR

This is it! The day camp you have been waiting for! Spend a thrilling day experiencing new adventures: fly through the air on the Flying Squirrel, challenge yourself on the 40-foot climbing tower, use teamwork to climb the Giant's Ladder and much more. Bring a bag lunch and be prepared to have LOTS of fun.

- ◆ Attend one session.
- ◆ Grades 3-7 (Call PWELC to request date for older students.)
- ◆ \$20 per person (PWELC member cost: \$18 per person)

### PreK Nature Day Camp (ages 4-5)

- Session 1: W-Th-F, July 9, 10, 11, 8:30 am to 12 pm
- Session 2: W-Th-F, Aug 13, 14, 15, 8:30am to 12 pm

### K-2 Nature Day Camp (completed K-2nd grade)

- Session 1: W-Th-F, June 18, 19, 20, 8:30am to 12 pm
- Session 2: W-Th-F, July 23, 24, 25, 8:30 am to 12 pm

Nature Days Day Camps provide a safe, fun atmosphere to learn about nature, ourselves, and each other. Explore flowers and trees, butterflies and dragonflies, bugs and other creepy critters. Learn about water and rain, dirt and sunshine, and even history. Mid-morning snack provided.

- ◆ Children can attend one or both sessions in their age group.
- ◆ \$50 for 3-day session (PWELC member cost: \$45/person)

### Splash Bash: Tuesday, July 15, 9 am to 4 pm

This is a wet-and-wild day camp full of games and water activities. Be prepared to play games with water, canoe on the water and take a closer look at water in a fun day of laughter and learning. Bring a bag lunch, a towel, and a swimsuit or change of clothes.

- ◆ Grades 3-7
- ◆ \$20 per person (PWELC member cost: \$18 per person)

### Pioneer Girls' Day: Tuesday, August 5, 9 am to 12 pm

Just like Laura Ingalls, you can be a pioneer girl for one day. Dress in a bonnet and pinafore, do pioneer activities, and even take home a doll you made yourself!

- ◆ Grades 2-4
- ◆ \$12 per person (PWELC member cost: \$10 per person)



### Investigate & Rescue Day: Thurs. Aug 7, 9 am to 2 pm

SSHHHHH... Where did all the animals go?? Investigate 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.

- ◆ Grades K-4
- ◆ \$20 per person (PWELC member cost: \$18 per person)

### Family Fun at the Log Cabin: Thurs, Aug. 7, 7 pm to 9 pm

As a family, discover together what it would have been like to be a pioneer in this land. Have fun doing pioneer activities at the log cabin, playing some old-fashioned games and reminiscing about your own family's heritage and history.

- ◆ FOR FAMILIES: All ages welcome
- ◆ \$8 per person or \$20 maximum per family (PWELC member cost: \$7 per person)

### Step Back in Time: Tuesday, August 12, 9 am to 2 pm

Find out how people lived in times past. Learn how to use an atlatl, make a fire without a match, and explore Native American shelters from different time periods. Then find out what it was like to be a boy or girl in pioneer days. What was life like before computers and video games??

- ◆ Grades 3-5
- ◆ \$20 per person (PWELC member cost: \$18 per person)

### Summer Archery Club

Tuesdays, July 8, 15, 22, and 29, 9 am to 10:30 am

Have lots of fun learning and practicing the skill of archery. We use compound bows to improve our skills. We will play games, do Olympic-style target shooting, and shoot on the 3-D range, all while aiming to have a great time.

- ◆ Ages 12 and up
- ◆ \$30 per person (PWELC member cost: \$27 per person)

### Youth Sporting Clays League

Mondays, June 30, July 7, 14, 21, and 28  
5 pm to 7 pm

This 5-week youth league is a great opportunity to improve ability and learn new skills. Join as an individual or as a 5-member team. (Teams are encouraged to find sponsors.) Shells, clays, firearms & instruction provided. You may bring your own firearms. Located at Westby Shooting Range, with NRA and 4-H certified instructors.

- ◆ Ages 12 to 18
- ◆ \$90 per person





## YES AWARDS: APRIL 19

continued from page 2

Community members committed to energy issues are encouraged to mentor a team, offer sponsorship, or recruit coaches and team members in your community. As Cheryl Glaeser said, "Just imagine

what can be accomplished by linking the creativity and initiative of our youth with community members who support their efforts." Interested? Call Anne Dybsetter at 320-354-5894.

Come to Prairie Woods on April 19 to support your hometown teams, and show your enthusiasm for the goals of YES!



### YES Winter Workshop presenters:

Rural Renewable Energy Alliance, Earthrise Farm, Farm-to-School, Wind Logics, Great River Energy, Northland Securities, WC Research and Outreach Center, Center for Energy and the Environment, Clean Energy Resource Teams, MN West Community & Tech College

## PROJECT ECO-VOYAGEUR 2.0

We are looking forward to another great year on the water in the voyageur canoe with kids from throughout our region. Look for the Big Canoe on water near you. Thanks to Northern Environmental Support Trust, Willmar Area Community Foundation, Tebben Enterprises and Charles and Marjorie Dickman, Project Eco-Voyageur served over 1000 kids during our pilot project. We will roll out the improved version this spring.



Contact Ryan Block to schedule Eco-Voyageur for your school or community.

If you are a member of a lake association, business or civic group who would like to help sponsor a program to get kids from your community connected to your local waters and local environmental issues, please give us a call.

## MORE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED: 354-5894

### Beginner Archery Class

**Session 1: Monday, June 9, 5:30 pm to 7 pm OR**

**Session 2: Monday, August 4, 5:30 pm to 7 pm**

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. This hands-on class is full of learning, fun, practicing, and playing archery games that all ages will enjoy. All equipment provided.

- ◆ Ages 12 and up
- ◆ \$10 per person (PWELC member cost: \$9 per person)

### Advanced Archery Class

**Session 1: Monday June 16, 5 pm to 7 pm OR**

**Session 2: Monday, August 11, 5 pm to 7 pm**

Already attended the beginner class, or looking to hone your skills? Join us for the advanced archery class. We will take a closer look at form, technique, and equipment care, as well as ranging distances and down-field shooting. We'll use Olympic-style targets and a 3-D range. Bring your equipment or use ours.

- ◆ Ages 12 and up
- ◆ \$10 per person (PWELC member cost: \$9 per person)

### Evening Canoeing Programs

**Start-of-Summer Canoe: Thurs, June 19, 7 pm to 9 pm**

**Sunset Canoeing: Thursday, July 17, 7 pm to 9 pm**

**Moonrise Canoe: Thurs, Aug. 14, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

Enjoy an evening on the water with your family. This guided canoe exploration will introduce you to the basics of paddling, and lead you through a wildlife-rich wetland on some of the most beautiful evenings of the year. All equipment provided. Children must be at least 7, and accompanied by an adult.



- ◆ FOR FAMILIES, ages 7 and up
- ◆ Register for each session separately.
- ◆ Each session: \$6 per person or \$25 maximum per family (PWELC member cost: \$5 per person)



**PRAIRIE WOODS  
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER**

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

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
WILLMAR MN  
PERMIT NO. 680

www.prairiewoodselc.org  
pwelc@co.kandiyohi.mn.us



**PRAIRIE WOODS** Warbler  
www.prairiewoodselc.org 320-354-5894  
pwelc@co.kandiyohi.mn.us Spicer, Minnesota

10

**WHY BE A MEMBER?**

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

*Thank you for  
your support.*

*Join Us!*

**PRAIRIE WOODS ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER**  
*Annual Membership for 2008*

- New Member
- Renewing Member

**SUPPORTER'S MEMBERSHIP**

- Individual Membership ..... \$25.00
- Family Membership ..... \$40.00
- Organization/Business Membership ... Please call for rates.
- I / we are interested in volunteering at Prairie Woods.

**BENEFACTOR'S MEMBERSHIP**

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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