



Pringle Nature Center



The Oak Leaf

Twenty Years at the Pringle Nature Center

Pringle Board of Directors

Barry Thomas
Chair

Warren Leisemann
Vice-Chair

Rainie Ernst
Treasurer

Al Sommer
Secretary

Richard Heinlein

Robert Pringle

Nick Spittlemeister

Kay Wikel

Pringle Nature Center Staff

Valerie Mann
Naturalist

Tracy Warwick
Environmental Educator

A special thank you to Marilyn Dickes for the donation of goggles for students to use while doing stewardship, Annette Balistreri for donating binders, and to the families of Girl Scout Troop 45621 for donating various supplies.

They say time flies when you are having fun. Usually this is a tongue in cheek comment but for me it has been true. I first became involved at the Pringle Nature Center shortly after it opened in 1998 when the first naturalist, Dan Werner, invited me to be on the original steering committee. I have been there ever since. My motivation in staying involved at the Pringle Nature Center is my life-long commitment to environmental education and the joy of seeing both children and adults experience the wonders of nature.

It has also been enjoyable to watch the nature center evolve over the years. During these years, I have had the opportunity to work with three naturalists. Beginning with Dan Werner, then Christine Reardon, and presently Valerie Mann. Each of these individuals in their own unique way have advanced the Pringle Nature Center. People used to tell me that we were the best kept secret in Kenosha County. Now they say that they can't believe how much is going on out there. Bristol Woods was once referred to as the "picnic park". Now it is recognized as a place for environmental education, outdoor recreation, and ecosystem management. What was once mowed lawn is now a spectacular prairie. Snow shoes, GPS units, and explorer packs are now available for outdoor fun and we are in the process of upgrading our interactive interpretive trail. Volunteers are helping us to restore the original oak savannah ecosystem that once dominated Bristol Woods. We continue to expand and upgrade learning opportunities for students, scouts, and the community. Our Mother's Day Brunch and Ephemeral Wildflower Hike and our Fall Fun Fest are highly acclaimed events.

Even with all that's going on, Bristol Woods is a place where one can experience solitude and quiet. A walk in our woods can lower your blood pressure, calm your nerves, and for some it is even a spiritual experience. Time spent in nature is good for both our physical and mental health.

Finally, as I look back at the last twenty years, I'm grateful for the support I have received from many. Kenosha County has been a great partner at all levels from County Executive and Director of Parks down to Park Supervisors and Park Workers. All have assisted in many ways. Our volunteers who staff the center on Sunday, remove invasive species, serve on the board, and teach classes are priceless. Jim Major, Dan Werner, and the Hoy Audubon Society stepped up to reopen the center after it closed in 2003. Thanks to all of you.



Pringle Chair Barry Thomas helps plant milkweed plugs in the prairie.

Twenty Years at the Pringle Nature Center Cont'd

What does the future hold for the Pringle Nature Center? Time will tell but my vision is that we will expand both our building and our staff. We need more space for storage, for educational activities and for community events. More space would allow us to run more than one activity at a time and better serve the public. Outsiders are amazed at how much we accomplish with one full-time employee but to

keep moving forward we will need to add staff. Recently we have been able to employ environmental educator Tracy Warwick for two hundred hours. She has been a welcome addition and we would like to expand her hours.

Bristol Woods County Park and the Pringle Nature Center are assets to Kenosha County that will only improve with time.

Please join us to celebrate our

20th anniversary on June 15th.

Barry Thomas, Chair of the Pringle Nature Center Board of Directors



Kids enjoy playing in the hay during last year's Fall Fun Fest.

Welcome New Volunteer Coordinator

After many years as our volunteer Volunteer Coordinator, Kay Wikel has retired from her position helping to recruit and schedule volunteers for the Pringle Nature Center. Please help us welcome our volunteer Barb Meyocks into her new role here at Pringle Nature Center.

Barb still helps staff the nature center on Sunday mornings and helping with our annual

Mother's Day brunch as well as she has previously taught classes and assisted in planting the rain garden.

Before retiring, Barb was a grade 7-12 science teacher for 34 years, most of those spent in the Kenosha Unified School District. Barb brings her passion for education and nature to her work here at the Pringle Nature Center. According to Barb, "I

believe strongly in the importance of giving children outdoor experiences. If we have positive interactions with nature, we are more likely to want to preserve and protect our wild places."

If you're interested in volunteering at Pringle Nature Center, visit our website at <http://pringlenc.org/Volunteer.html> and check out our opportunities.

Wish list

Pringle Nature Center is growing and with that, we are looking for help. Big or small, your donation is greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance!

- Binoculars
- 3-4 Large storage containers
- Ink (Hp 950 and 951)
- Thermal laminating pouches
- Postage stamps
- Bird seed

Thank You to Our Members

Life Time

Darlene Cavener/David Kiefer
Dan & Karen Dietz
Janice Laufenberg
Warren Leisemann
Jim & Genée Major
Barry & Patti Thomas
Jennie Tunkieicz
Bob & Julie Pringle

Savannah

Bob & Debbie Weltman

Wetland

Janice & James T. Duncan III
Jim Foster
Joy & Jerry Mast
Barb Meyocks/Dennis Flath
Allan Sommer

Prairie

Tom & Pat Agazzi

Mary Stull/Dale Tauke
Paul & Pam Folbrecht
Chris & Bob Hall
Nancy Hennessy
Marlene Tack/Jim Kennedy
Trudy Farrell/Lori Wangerin
Bob & Julie McGill
Ted & Sue Milligan
Kay & Denis Wikel
Grow Rite Landscape Mgmt

Family

John W. Berge
Thomas & Dawn Brown
Troy & Kerry Bruley
Sally Caldoza
Sherry Christol
John R. Collins
Merv Daehler
Alan J. Eppers
Rainie Ernst

Lois Foerster
Judy Gregory & Family
Pam Holy/Ingrid Verhulst
Wally & Sheila Jaszkowski
Kate Jerome
Frank & Marnie Klein
Margaret & John McCabe
Dottie McMillan
Meteyard Family
Daniel & Kathleen Neururer
Clarice Nguyen
Kathleen Palmen
Doug Palmer
Maria Pfister
Stephanie Raszkievicz
Carolyn & Andrew Rivers
Matt & Susan Schmitt Family
Dave Spittlemeister
Nick & Kate Spittlemeister
Jeff Swanson
Joe & Barb Vass
Bob & Jan Waldron

Steve & Heather Waldron
Jamie Zarnstorff
Petar & Brenda Zekovic

Individual

Walter Dragan
Linda Dubaniewicz
Cheryl Gorka
Sean Hayden
Richard Heinlein
Gail Helfferich
Edward Kubicki
Diane Lembck
Jayne Mackey
John Musser
Eleanor M. Pasek
Pam Penza
Charlotte Schroeder
Robert W. Wirch

And a special thank you to the **Pringle Family** for their generations of support.

Summer Calendar

To register for programs, please call the nature center, download the scouting forms from our website, or go to <http://ow.ly/oq8qp> to register online. Payment can be made by cash or check.

Webelos Scout Badges

Saturday, June 16th, July 21st, August 18th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

June – Into the Woods Badge. Learn the important role that forests play in nature and in our lives.

July – Earth Rocks Badge. Identify minerals, rocks, and the role they play in earth formation.

August – Into the Wild Badge. Learn about food webs, explore the nature center and take home a project.

Pre-registration is required! Registration form and payment are due the Thursday before the program. \$4.00/scout

Girl Scout Brownie and Junior Badges

Juniors – Saturday, June 2nd, July 7th, and August 4th, 1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Brownies – Saturday, June 16th, July 21st, August 18th, 9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

June – Flowers (Juniors) and Hiker (Brownies)

July – Animal Habitats (Juniors) and Senses (Brownies)

August – Geocacher (Juniors) and Bugs (Brownies)

Pre-registration is required! \$4.00/scout by the Thursday before the programs.

Summer Children Naturalist Programs

Junior Naturalist – Wednesdays, June 14th to August 16th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Observation & Creation – Thursdays, June 15th to August 17th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Little Naturalist – Fridays, June 16th to August 18th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Tots in the Park @ Petrifying Springs Pavilion #5 – Mondays, June 18th to July 23rd, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Registration is required! Form can be downloaded from our website. Payment and registration is due by June 8th for the programs at Pringle and the Friday prior for the programs at Petrifying Springs. Price is per session per child.

Junior Naturalist for children aged 9-12 years old; *\$9.00 Friend of Pringle/\$12.00 General Public*

Observation & Creation for children aged 6-8 years old; *\$4.50 Friend of Pringle/\$6.00 General Public*

Little Naturalist for children aged 4-5 years old; *\$4.50 Friend of Pringle/\$6.00 General Public*

Tots in the Park for children aged 3-5 years old with a parent; *Friend of Pringle: Daily Fee \$4.00 or \$22.00 for all six/General Public Daily Fee \$5.00 or \$28.00 for all six (cost is per child)*

Pringle Nature Center 20th Anniversary Celebration

Friday, June 15th, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Open House); 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (evening activities)

Join us as we celebrate 20 years of putting people in touch with nature. During the day we will have an open house with various hands-on explorations and activities for families to do. In the evening, we will do guided hikes, have a campfire going where you can purchase and make a pudgy pie or other campfire food treats.

Prices vary for food items

SPARK! Program

Friday, June 22nd, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

SPARK! programs are designed for people in the early- to mid-stages of memory loss to visit with their family/caregivers. This month we will talk about birds and watch them come to our feeders.

Free; pre-registration is required as space is limited.

International Mud Day

Wednesday, June 27th, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

International Mud Day aims to connect children around the globe through the earth. Connect with others and play in the mud! Pringle will have a small area with mud for children of all ages to play in. Bring towels and a change of clothes since getting dirty will be mandatory!

Free; donations accepted

Pringle Board of Directors Elections

Wednesday, July 18th, 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Have ideas you would like to see us do? Have a talent that would really benefit the center? Consider joining the Board of Directors, which help foresee the mission of the center and helps in the operations of the center.

Leave No Child Inside: Frogs and Toads, Oh My!

Saturday, July 14th, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Come out to learn all about the world of frogs and toads, what makes them special. We'll learn how to identify frogs visually and by their distinctive calls. **Be prepared to get dirty and wet!** *Ages 4 and up. Call or register online.*

Friends: \$4.50/General Public: \$6.00

Perseids Meteor Shower Viewing

Saturday, August 11th

9:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

The Perseids is one of the best meteor showers to observe, producing up to 60 meteors per hour at their peak. This year's shower should peak on the night of August 11th and the morning of the 12th. Join us for a short, informal talk about the Perseids. Please dress for the weather. *Registration is required! Please call or register online.*

Friends: \$3.00/General Public: \$5.00

Fall Teacher Naturalist Training

Tuesdays, August 14th, 21st, and 28th

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day

Are you interested in nature and would love to share that curiosity with the next generation? Pringle Nature Center is offering training sessions for the classes we offer to school groups. Come for some or all of the sessions. Check out our website for the educational programs we offer that might interest you.

Tuesday, August 14th: K & 1st Grade

Wednesday, August 21st: 2nd & 3rd Grade

Thursday, August 28th: 4th & 5th Grade

Leave No Child Inside: Come & Explore!

Saturday, August 25th

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Come and explore Pringle and Bristol Woods as summer draws to a close. Sit in a magic spot, check out the pond critters, check out a GPS and go geocaching, or if you're not sure what to do, we'll have cards with suggestions on how to explore our woods. Arrive and leave when you like.

Free

Friends of Pringle Nature Center Membership

The Pringle Nature Center, located in the heart of Bristol Woods County Park, is a treasure to Kenosha County. Our programs bring nature education to area students, youth groups, and families. Our trails are often hailed by hikers and skiers as some of the best in the area. As someone who appreciates nature, you know how important a place like this is to the community.

By becoming a Friend of Pringle you support environmental education and a unique community resource. Members receive this newsletter seasonally as well as fee reductions on programs.

To become a Friend, or renew your membership, send your donation and the attached form to Pringle Nature Center.

Yes, I want to be a Friend of Pringle

Membership Levels

- Individual \$20
- Family \$35
- Prairie \$50
- Wetland \$100
- Savannah \$250
- Life Time \$500
- Additional Gift \$ _____

Name
Address
City/State/Zip
Email
Phone
Date

Happenings at Pringle

- Nature Story Time Hike
June 2nd, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- Junior Girl Scout Flowers Badge
June 2nd, 1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
- PNC 20th Anniversary Celebration
June 15th, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m./8:00 p.m.
- Brownie Girl Scout Hiker Badge
June 16th, 9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
- Webelos Into the Woods Badge
June 16th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Tots in the Park: Terrific Trees
June 18th, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Junior Naturalist: Bats
June 20th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Nature Story Time
June 21st, 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- Observation & Creation: Ecosystem Investigation
June 21st, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- SPARK! Program
June 22nd, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- Little Naturalist: Under the Grass
June 22nd, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Invasive Species Workday
June 23rd, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Tots in the Park: Rockin' Rocks
June 25th, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Junior Naturalist: 3 R's
June 27th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- International Mud Day
June 27th, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Observation & Creation: Garbology
June 28th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Little Naturalist: Nature's Skyscrapers
June 29th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Tots in the Park: Wiggly Worms
July 2nd, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Closed for Holiday
July 4th
- Observation & Creation: Whatever the Weather
July 5th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Little Naturalist: Birds of a Feather
July 6th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Nature Story Time Hike
July 7th, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- Junior Girl Scout Animal Habitats Badge
July 7th, 1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
- Tots in the Park: Feathered Friends
July 9th, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Junior Naturalist: Map & Compass
July 11th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Observation & Creation: Life in the Pond
July 12th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Little Naturalist: Freaky Fliers
July 13th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Leave No Child Inside: Frogs and Toads, Oh My!
July 14th, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Tots in the Park: Good Night Nocturnals
July 16th, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Junior Naturalist: Into the Wild
July 18th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Pringle Board of Directors Meeting
July 18th, 5:00 p.m.
- Nature Story Time
July 19th, 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- Observation & Creation: S.E.E.
July 19th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Little Naturalist: Things that Buzz
July 20th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Brownie Girl Scout Senses Badge
July 21st, 9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
- Webelos Earth Rocks! Badge
July 21st, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Tots in the Park: Whose House Is It?
July 23rd, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Junior Naturalist: Tricky Tracks
July 25th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Observation & Creation: Terrific Trees
July 26th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Little Naturalist: Wiggle & Slither
July 27th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Invasive Species Workday
July 28th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Junior Naturalist: Nature Whodunit?
August 1st, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Observation & Creation: Nature Colors & Textures
August 2nd, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Little Naturalist: Metamorphosis
August 3rd, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Nature Story Time Hike
August 4th, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Junior Girl Scout Geocacher Badge
August 4th, 1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
- Junior Naturalist: Night Sky
August 8th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Observation & Creation: Be a Rockhound
August 9th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Little Naturalist: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
August 10th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Project Learning Tree Pre K-8 Workshop
Saturday, August 11th, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.
- Perseids Meteor Shower Viewing
August 11th, 9:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
- Junior Naturalist: Predator & Prey
August 15th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Nature Story Time
August 16th, 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- Observation & Creation: Butterflies
August 16th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Little Naturalist: What Happens to the Rain?
August 17th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Brownie Girl Scout Bugs Badge
August 18th, 9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
- Webelos Into the Wild Badge
August 18th, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Junior Naturalist: Creepy Crawlies
August 22nd, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Observation & Creation: Early American Life
August 23rd, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Little Naturalist: "Sense" of Nature
August 24th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Invasive Species Workday
August 25th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Leave No Child Inside: Summer's Last Fling
August 25th, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
Fall Fun Fest is Saturday, September 15th and the
Pringle 5K Trail Run/Hike is Saturday, November 3rd

Putting People In Touch With Nature

Pringle Nature Center

9800 160th Avenue
Bristol, WI 53104

Phone/Fax: 262-857-8008

Email: naturalists@pringlec.org

www.pringlec.org

Tuesday through Sunday

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

