



## Wisconsin Ephemeral Ponds Program

Ephemeral ponds are depressional wetlands that hold water during the spring and early summer and dry up periodically. The ponds are free of predatory fish and provide important habitat for amphibians and invertebrates such as the fairy shrimp which require a dry period for reproduction. As natural water collection points, ephemeral ponds are an important tool in flood prevention and water quality management.

Unfortunately, ephemeral ponds are poorly protected by existing laws and can be difficult to identify during dry periods. For this reason, the Wisconsin DNR with funds from the EPA has started the Wisconsin Ephemeral Ponds Program (WEPP).

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WEPP is a citizen scientist initiative. Residents of Wisconsin are being asked to monitor local ponds collecting information such as precise location, duration depth and extent of ponding, and to identify some of the plant and animal species present. Training is provided to volunteers and a science background is not necessary.

The goals of WEPP include identifying ephemeral ponds in Wisconsin, understanding the geography and ecology of the pond habitat, and develop multiple land use conservation strategies to ensure continued viability.

Pringle has partnered with WEPP to facilitate ephemeral



*A monitoring team collecting data at an ephemeral pond.*

pond monitoring in southern and eastern Kenosha county with a focus on the Chiwaukee Prairie area.

If you are interested in helping with this effort please contact Christine at 262-857-8008 or by e-mail at [pnc@clsurf.com](mailto:pnc@clsurf.com) for more information.

Pringle Board of Directors
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## New Programs at Pringle

Pringle Nature Center has provided quality science field trips to area schools for years. We are now serving the homeschool community with a series of five field trips this spring.

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Learning Experiences and Activities in Forestry (LEAF) is a

curriculum developed to teach Wisconsin students about one of our most valuable natural resources. Pringle has partnered with LEAF to bring forestry education to the students of Kenosha.

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We now offer a full array of

programs to cub scouts and brownie and junior girl scouts. Troops can schedule individual program or one of the popular options available annually

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For more information on these programs contact us at 262-857-8008 or [pnc@clsurf.com](mailto:pnc@clsurf.com)

## Nationwide Winter Bird Counts



*A hairy woodpecker photographed by Mark MacMillan of Thunder Bay, Ontario during the 2005 bird count.*

Each year the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology sponsor citizen bird counts to track the bird populations in North America. Whether you want to spend a single day or the entire winter monitoring birds there is a program for you.

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is the oldest citizen bird count. This winter's count runs from December 14 to January 5. While everyone is welcome to participate it must be as a part of an existing circle. Go to <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/getinvolved.html> to get involved.

Project Feederwatch is a winter long bird count that you can participate in just by looking out your window. The program begins on the second Saturday of November but it is possible to sign up until February 29. For more information go to [http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/Overview/over\\_index.html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/Overview/over_index.html)

The next Great Backyard Bird Count. (GBBC) is February 15 to 18 and Pringle is observing it with a special presentation and our own count on Feb 16 from 10am to 2pm. Participants are then encouraged to do a count in their own backyard the next two days.

## No Child Left Inside — Spring Break

Pringle Nature Center is offering a series of four free nature themed family activity days this spring break.

Don't leave your child inside this spring break, bring them to the Pringle Nature Center. We are offering a series of four free nature themed family activity days.

### Tuesday—Nature Games

Bring your imagination to discover the hidden secrets of Bristol Woods.

### Wednesday—Nature Hunt

Half treasure hunt half nature hike, follow the clues to learn about the flora of Bristol Woods and win a prize.

### Thursday—Nature Cares

Show how much you care with these projects that help wildlife make it through the early days of spring.

### Friday—Nature Art

Use nature as your muse or your medium creating works of art. Some projects have a small materials fee.

The programs run from 10 am to 2 pm and except where noted are free and registration is not required. Let the whole family be part of the fun!

## Coming up in our summer issue...

Nature themed summer camps for kids entering first through ninth grade, initial results from our ephemeral pond monitoring program, a new program targeted toward monitoring invasive species, and a special thanks to our 2008 members. Stay tuned!

### Family Story Time

Families with small children are invited to hear a nature themed story and then explore the grounds in keeping with the theme of the story. Very cold or rainy weather will substitute an art project. Story time is the first Saturday of the month from 10 to 11 am.



Jan. 5 Feb. 2 Mar. 1

Apr 5 May 3

### Family Movie Night

Families are welcomed to Pringle at night to watch nature themed movies while enjoying popcorn and other snacks. Jammies with feet encouraged! Movie night is the second Friday of the month at 7 pm.



Jan. 11 Feb. 8 Mar. 14

Apr. 11 May 9

### NCLI—Spring Break

Four days of free family fun in the great outdoors. Programs are Tuesday March 25 to Friday March 28 from 10am to 2pm.

Mar 25, Nature Games

Mar 26, Nature Hunt

Mar 27, Nature Cares

Mar 28, Nature Art

### Webelos Geologist and Forester Badges

Webelos Boy Scouts are invited to earn their Geologist and Forester badges. Registration is due 2 weeks before the program.

Geologist Badge

Jan 26, 1 - 3 pm



Forester Badge

Apr 26, 1 - 3 pm



### Home School Science Program

Home school families are invited to bring their children for a monthly series of science field trips. Programs take place on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30.

#### PreK to 2nd Grade

Jan 16, The Mitten

Feb 27, Weather

Mar 19 Insects

Apr 16, Forestry

May 21, The Green Planet

#### 3rd to 6th Grade

Jan 16, Predator and Prey

Feb 27, Rocks and Minerals

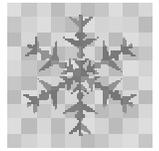
Mar 19 Mammals

Apr 16, Forestry

May 21, Pond Exploration

### Holiday Open House

Join the Pringle community in celebrating the holidays at our open house with music, food and crafts.



Dec. 29, 10 am - 2 pm

### Great Backyard Bird Count

Bird enthusiasts and novices alike will enjoy a slideshow and count birds through our great glass windows then go home with the knowledge to do their own count at home.

Feb. 16, 10am to 2pm

### Beekeeping and Honey

Tim Fulton, area beekeeper, will talk about beekeeping and honey production. This interactive program is fun for the whole family.

Mar. 15, 10:30 am

### Earth Day Celebration

Bring Earth Day home with eco-friendly ideas for your garden. Learn about garlic mustard and help eliminate it from Bristol Woods. Get the whole family in on the fun.



Apr 19, 10 am to 2 pm

# Pringle Nature Center

## Putting People In Touch With Nature

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## *Happenings at Pringle*

**Dec 29**— Holiday Open House 10am to 3pm.

**Jan 5**— Story Time Hike 10 to 11am.

**Jan 11**— Family Movie Night 7pm.

**Jan 12**— Board Meeting 9am.

**Jan 16**— Home School Program 1:30pm.

**Jan 26**— Webelos Geologist Badge 1 to 3pm.

**Feb 2**— Story Time Hike 10 to 11am.

**Feb 8**— Family Movie Night 7pm.

**Feb 9**— Board Meeting 9am.

**Feb 13**— Home School Program 1:30pm.

**Feb 16**— Great Backyard Bird Count 10am to 2pm.

**Feb 23**— WEPP training in Mequon.

**Mar 1**— Story Time Hike 10 to 11am.

**Mar 8**— Board Meeting 9am.

**Mar 14**— Family Movie Night 7pm.

**Mar 15**— Tim Fulton, Beekeeper 10:30am.

**Mar 19**— Home School Program 1:30pm.

**Mar 25 to 28**— Spring Break Program 10am to 2pm.

**Mar 29**— WEPP training in Mequon.

**Apr 5**— Story Time Hike 10 to 11am.

**Apr 11**— Family Movie Night 7pm.

**Apr 12**— Board Meeting 9am.

**Apr 16**— Home School Program 1:30pm.

**Apr 19**— Earth Day Program 10am to 2pm.

**Apr 26**— Webelos Forester Badge 1 to 3pm.

**May 3**— Story Time Hike 10 to 11am.

**May 9**— Family Movie Night 7pm.

**May 10**— Board Meeting 9am.

**May 21**— Home School Program 1:30pm.

**Coming Soon...**

**Summer Camps at Pringle!**