



# The Oakleaf

## 10 Years of Nature Education

Time flies when you're having fun!

This June marks the 10 anniversary of the Pringle Nature Center opening its doors to the public. Following is an article originally published in our first newsletter about how Bristol Woods and the Pringle Nature Center came to be.

Please join us on July 12 to celebrate. The day will begin with a presentation on our history. We will have a guided hike highlighting our conservation work and the projects completed by area scouts. At the center we will have craft projects and the day will end with a ceremony honoring our valued volunteers.

We hope to see you there!



*Robert Pringle Sr., his wife Florence and sister Fanny Pringle stand beside the Native American*

### Pringle Board of Directors

*Barry Thomas—Chair*

*Nick Spittlemeister—Vice-Chair*

*Warren Leisseman—Treasurer*

*Jim Major*

*Robert Pringle*

*Stan Rosentiel*

*Kay Wikel*

## The Pringle Legacy

The Pringle family has long been a part of Kenosha County's community. Their ties run back for over a century. They have been actively involved in shaping the county's growth and care of the environment.

Robert D. Pringle, Sr. was born in 1887 in a frame cabin on his parents' homestead in the Dakota Territory. When he was a year and a half old, his mother, sister Fanny, and he moved to his grandparents' home in Bristol, Wisconsin.

In 1919, Robert married his girlfriend, Florence Jensen. They bought and moved to the 160-acre farm that is still

owned by the family today. In 1920, they began to raise their family and take an interest in civic affairs. They had seven children, four boys and three girls.

In 1957, Robert retired from farming and became the Vice-Chairperson of the Kenosha County Park Commission. He held that post from 1958 to 1971. It was during that time that his friend, Park Commissioner William Thompson, planted the seed that some of his land would make a wonderful park. Another friend, Park Superintendent Dick Lindl, worked hard to see this dream bear fruit. That land is now

known as Bristol Woods County Park.

Later, Robert's sister, Fanny J. Pringle, generously donated \$50,000 to the county to establish a nature center in her brother's name. The county held Miss Pringle's gift in escrow for 25 years until it with additional funds and contributions could be used to build the Pringle Nature Center we enjoy today. Thanks to the generosity and foresight of these people, Kenosha County can take pleasure from this nature center in this beautiful setting.

## Discovery Camps

Give your child the gift of nature this summer. Our age appropriate programs help children discover the natural world in ways that will last a lifetime.

The youngest campers will learn through games and guided exploration how to use their senses to discover the world around them.

Older students will perform experiments and make obser-

vations just like real scientists.

Our newly developed middle school program is a gateway into conservation work and volunteerism, with students learning many skills needed in the field.

Our program times and costs are posted on the next page. You will also find our Webelos scout programs for this summer. Contact the center to register your child.



Children play games around the big oak tree in

## WEEB Grant

**Students often know more about tropical forests than what is in their own back yards.**

Pringle Nature Center and Frank Elementary School just received a grant from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB).

Next year every student from Frank will come to Pringle for a forestry field trip. They will also receive an in-class lesson

in forestry. Teachers will receive similar in-service training.

We will be using the LEAF curriculum which was developed by UW-Stevens Point to teach students about Wisconsin forests. Students often know more about tropical forests than what is in their own

back yard.

Finally, the school will gain an outdoor classroom with dedication and tree planting tentatively set for arbor day.

We hope to extend this program to other schools in the future.

## Thank You to Our Members

### Lifetime Members

Betty Burkhalter  
Robert Pringle

Donna Peterson  
Stan Rosenstiel  
Nick Spittlemeister  
Ron Witt

Christine Reardon  
Charles & Vicky Talbert  
Suzanne Valentine-French

Denis & Kay Wikel  
Brenda Zekovick

### Individual Members

Anonymous  
Alan Eppers  
Gustav Hauser  
Samantha Kerkman  
Jim Major

In memory of Carl Schroeder

### Family Members

Dan & Karen Diets  
Wally & Sheila Jaszowski  
John Musser

### Prairie

Howard Brown  
Trudy Farrel  
Bob Hall  
Warren Leisemann  
Barb Meyocks

### Wetland

Barry Thomas

### Savannah

In memory of Ruth Burg

## Coming up in our fall issue...

We will be launching our evening lecture series in September. What's coming for the Fall Fun Fest? We will be welcoming a new intern who will be helping us with our Forestry program with Frank elementary school.

## ***Discovery Camps***

### **First through Third Grade Camps**

Programs run Tuesday through Thursday from 9:30 am to 12 pm.

Fee: non-members \$26 members \$23

#### **Forestry *June 24-26***

Go on hikes and play games that use our senses to learn what lives in the forest.

#### **Wetlands *July 22-24***

Get your feet dirty as we discover what lives in the muck under a pond.

#### **Prairie *August 19-21***

Discover the plants and animals that live in a prairie. Play games about the web of life.

### **Fourth through Sixth Grade Camps**

Programs run Monday through Friday from 12:00 to 3:30 pm.

Fee: non-members \$52 members \$49

#### **Forestry *June 16-20***

Be a forester performing some jobs from the past present and to prepare for the future.

#### **Wetlands *July 14-18***

Perform experiments that show how water quality and water life are connected.

#### **Prairie *August 4-8***

Learn about food chains and perform soil tests.

## ***Discovery Camps***

### **Seventh through Ninth Grade Camps**

Programs are on Fridays from 10 am to 3 pm.

Fee: non-members \$18 members \$15

#### **Forestry *June 27***

Understand the trees and plants that make up Bristol Woods and how they relate to each other.

#### **Wetlands *July 25***

Learn to identify the many kinds of wetlands and work independently to study several wetlands in the park.

#### **Geocaching *August 22***

Learn to use a compass and GPS unit then search Bristol Woods for some of the many hidden geocaches.

### **Webelos Scout Badges**

Programs run Saturdays from 1 to 3 pm.

Fee: \$3.50 per scout

#### **Forester Badge *June 28 1pm to 3pm***

Learn the important role that forests play in nature and in our lives.



#### **Geologist Badge *July 26 1pm to 3pm***

Identify minerals, rocks, and the role they play in earth formation.



#### **Naturalist Badge *August 23 1pm to 3pm***

Learn about food webs, explore the nature center and take home a project.



## **10th Anniversary Event**

Saturday, July 12, noon to 3pm  
12:15—Presentation on the history of Bristol Woods and the Pringle Nature Center.

1:00—Hike the Bristol Woods trail and learn about the conservation projects and Eagle Scout projects that we have done.

2:00—Appreciation of our volunteers who make our work possible.

Ongoing—Craft projects, games and picnicking.

Snacks will be available for purchase.

### **Invasive Species Removal**

We will be restarting invasive species removal on the 4th Saturday of the month from 9am to noon. Bring gloves and loppers if you can, we have a limited number to share. This is a great service project for scouts too!

June 28—9am to noon

July 26—9am to noon

August 23—9am to noon

### **Insects at the Library**

Join us at the Southwest branch of the Kenosha Public Library for a program about insects.

July 23 at 6:30pm

# Pringle Nature Center

## Putting People In Touch With Nature

9800 160th Avenue  
Bristol, WI 53104

Phone: 262-857-8008  
Fax: 262-857-8009  
Email: [pnc@clsurf.com](mailto:pnc@clsurf.com)  
[www.pringlenc.org](http://www.pringlenc.org)

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## *Happenings at Pringle*

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| Jun 14—Board Meeting 9am                         | Jul 23—Insect program at KPL southwest 6:30pm   |
| Jun 16-20—Forestry program 4-6 grade 12-3:30pm   | Jul 25—Wetland program 7-9 grade 10am-3pm       |
| Jun 24-26—Forestry program 1-3 grade 9:30am-12pm | Jul 26—Invasive species removal 9am-12pm        |
| Jun 27—Forestry program 6-9 grade 10am-3pm       | Jul 26—Webelos geologist badge 1-3pm            |
| Jun 28—Invasive species removal 9am-12pm         | Aug 4-8—Prairie program 4-6 grade 12-3:30pm     |
| Jun 28—Webelos forester badge 1-3pm              | Aug 9—Board meeting 9am                         |
| Jul 4—Building closed for national holiday       | Aug 11-12—See our table at Chiwaukee Academy!   |
| Jul 10—4H camp program                           | Aug 19-21—Prairie program 1-3 grade 9:30am-12pm |
| Jul 12—Board meeting 9am                         | Aug 22—Geocaching program 7-9 grade 10am-3pm    |
| Jul 12—10th Anniversary 12-2pm                   | Aug 23—Invasive species removal 9am-12pm        |
| Jul 12—Volunteer recognition 2-3pm               | Aug 23—Webelos naturalist badge 1-3pm           |
| Jul 14-18—Wetland program 4-6 grade 12-3:30pm    |   |
| Jul 22-24—Wetland program 1-3 grade 9:30am-12pm  |   |