



Pringle Nature Center



The Oak Leaf

Membership Renewal Time

The Pringle Nature Center is growing and with that we need your support now more than ever. In the past year we have created new field trip programs, added more public programs, and with our 20th anniversary coming up, we are exploring the possibilities of expanding the building.

Why is supporting environmental education important? Environmental education heightens imagination and enthusiasm, tolerance and understanding are supported, biophobia and nature deficit disorder decline, as well as communities are strengthened just to name a few.

If you are a current member, your renewal form will be coming in the mail. Please let us know if you haven't received it. If you would like to become a member, fill out and return the membership form on the last page of the newsletter. By becoming a Friend of Pringle, you will receive discounts on programs as well as free rentals of the family explorer packs and snowshoes (availability may vary).

The Pringle Nature Center, Inc. is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit organization and your donation/membership is tax-deductible. Many thanks for your continued support of the Pringle Nature Center which enabled us to serve the educational and recreational needs of 7,476 children and adults during the past year.



Membership fees help provide funding to purchase supplies for our educational programs.

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 Bob and Julie Pringle who donated their Thrivent Action Team monies for our Festival. The Spittlemeister family for donating time and food for the 5K Trail Run/Hike. Steve Gifford for the root puller tool.

2017 Volunteer of the Year

At Pringle Nature Center's annual volunteer appreciation potluck, we recognized and thanked all of our volunteers for their help. This year, we recognized Steve Gifford as our 2017 Volunteer of the Year.

Gifford came to volunteer at Pringle Nature Center after moving here from Ohio, where he was a pastor, to be closer to his children and grandchildren.

In Ohio, he was a Certified Volunteer Naturalist. When

Gifford moved to Wisconsin, he took the required classes to become a Wisconsin Master Naturalist.

While volunteering at Pringle, he helped out in many areas. As part of his Master Naturalist program, he helped to redo our interpretive trail by creating more detailed write-ups for each of the stops and providing photographs.

He also helped staff the nature center on Sundays, taught the field trip programs as a

Teacher Naturalist, took photographs as well as helped clear the land as part of our invasive species workday crew.

Gifford is keeping himself busy with other volunteering. He is involved in his church with a committee that focuses on environmental advocacy and education, is a merit badge counselor, and is participating in the DNR Rare Plant Survey program.

Thank you Steve for your dedication to the nature center!

Pringle 20th Anniversary

In a few months, Pringle Nature Center will be celebrating its 20th anniversary. In those twenty years, we have been through a lot!

In the past twenty years, we have:

- Established and expanded a prairie restoration
- Brought in goats to help aid in invasive species removal

- Expand our field trip offerings to area schools
- Worked with the county parks to do programming in the other parks

With our anniversary, we are exploring the possibilities of expanding the building. As we get older, we are experiencing the growing pains of doing more programming and hosting more groups.

Thank you to all who make Pringle Nature Center their “second home” to hike the trails or attend one of our programs. It’s your support we truly appreciate.

We plan to have an open house celebration on June 15th. There will be activities for the entire family including a campfire to make pudgy pies and s’mores, guided hikes, yard games, and more!



Photo courtesy of Steve Gifford

Awards for Naturalist and Center

This past September our naturalist, Valerie Mann, was one of three honorable mentions for the Kenosha News’s first annual 20 under 40 award. The award was given at a luncheon on September 22.

The award celebrates the rising stars of Kenosha County through the nominees professional achievement, community involvement, and

their impact on the community.

Pringle Nature Center was also nominated in two categories for the Kenosha News “Best of Kenosha”. The nature center took second place in the Best Park/Recreation West of the I category. Thank you to Marsha Ludwig who nominated us and to all those who voted.

Lastly, the Native American trail tree received an award for the Hoy Audubon. In their second

annual “Trees We Love” contest, the trail tree was one of six that won this year. The award plaque will be installed in the future. The trail tree is on the trail immediately behind the nature center.

Sue Schuit from Hoy did some research on the trail tree. It was aged to be approximately 190 years old and passed on several maps from the Kenosha Historical Society.

Welcome New Staff

With the increase in the number of programs and the need for help running the programs, Pringle Nature Center created a part time environmental educator position. In October, Tracy Warwick was hired.

She has a B.S. in Plant and Soil Science from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and a M.S. in Education from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Prior to working at Pringle Nature Center she worked at the Lake County Forest Preserve as an Environmental Educator and the Chicago Botanic Garden as the Manager of School and Youth Programs.

In Tracy’s spare time she enjoys gardening, going for walks and spending time with her family.



Tracy Warwick is the new Environmental Educator at Pringle Nature Center

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!

- Children’s rain and winter coats
- Children’s winter boots, hats, scarves, mittens
- Binoculars
- 2-3 Hula hoops
- 3-4 Large storage containers
- Turtle food & tank filters
- Votive candles for candlelight hikes
- Copy paper
- Ink (Hp 950 and 951)
- Thermal laminating pouches
- Postage stamps
- Bird seed

Parents, it may seem awhile away, but underneath all the white snow, a world of adventure lies waiting to be explored. Have your children come join us next summer for a season of fun and adventure with summer camp. If you would like more information please call us at 262-857-8008.

Spring Calendar



To register for programs, please call the nature center or go to <http://ow.ly/oq8qp> to register online. Program cancellation due to weather is rare.

Fitness Hiking Club

First Tuesday of the month, January through April, 10:00 a.m.

Enjoy all that nature has to offer all while getting exercise. Join us each month to get some fresh air, good company and exercise. A naturalist will lead a 1– 1.5 mile hike on our trails. Perfect for hikers of varying levels. Please come dressed for the weather and wearing proper foot wear. *Free*

Leave No Child Inside: Snow Day

Saturday, January 20th, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Just because it's cold out doesn't mean there's nothing to do - there are many ways to enjoy the winter weather.

Different activities are scheduled throughout the day; come and leave when you like. *Free*



Cabin Fever Crafts

February 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. each day

A new adult program. Stuck in the house with nothing to do? Come on out to Pringle and try these crafts to help alleviate your cabin fever. Classes have an additional materials fees which vary by craft and are listed on our website (www.pringlenc.org/Events).

February 6th Bread Making/February 13th TBD/February 20th Soap Making/February 27th Learn How to Knit

Friends: \$8.00/session or \$27 for all four/General Public: \$10.00/session or \$35.00 for all four

Great Backyard Bird Count - Build Your Own Bird Feeder

Saturday, February 10th, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Join us the weekend before the GBBC to build your own feeder to count birds at during the Count. We will offer a short ID session, how to report data for the count, and some fun activities to learn about birds. **Supplies are limited. Pre-registration required.** Please bring your own hammer. *Feeder Price: Friends: \$10.00/General Public: \$12.00*

Valentine's Candlelight Hike

Saturday, February 10th, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Enjoy the winter wonderland at night with family, friends, and loved ones while on the candlelit trail at Bristol Woods County Park. If there is enough snow, snowshoes will be available to use. Warm up afterwards by the crackling fire and refreshments will be served inside the nature center. Come and leave when you like. *Friends: Free/General Public: \$5.00*

Leave No Child Inside: Sky's the Limit

Saturday, February 24th, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Come and explore the night sky during the daytime! Join us as we use the inflatable StarLab Planetarium to look at the night sky and see what causes the seasons. **Space is limited. Pre-registration required.** *Children first grade and older are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Friends: \$4.50/General Public: \$6.00*

Leave No Child Inside: Owl Prowl

Friday, March 9th, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Join a naturalist as we see how amazing our feathered friends are and call them to see if they'll call back. We will try to call Screech Owls and Great Horned Owls, both of which have been heard in the park. **Pre-registration required.**

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

Maple Syrup Hike at Petrifying Springs

Saturdays, March 10th and 24th, 11:00/1:00/2:30

With warmer weather, that can only mean one thing - it's time for Maple Syrup! Join us for one of three hikes that day in Petrifying Springs County Park. Meet at Pavilion #6.

Free; donations accepted

Vernal Equinox Night Hike

Saturday, March 17th, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Get rid of the winter blues and help us welcome spring. We will search for the early spring risers that live in the park as well as learn how different cultures welcomed the longer days and warmer weather. **Please leave your flashlights at home as they will spoil the experience. Pre-registration required.** *Friends: Free/General Public: \$5.00*



Egg Drop, Roll, & Dye

Saturday, March 31st, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Celebrate Easter a little differently this year! See if you can make a parachute so your egg can land without breaking, dye eggs with natural dyes, and roll them down our hill. Come and leave when you like.

Friends: \$5.00/General Public: \$8.00

Leave No Child Inside: Come and Explore Tuesday to Friday, April 3rd to 6th 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. each day

Instead of staying cooped up inside all of spring break, come out to Pringle Nature Center to see what is trying to bloom and crawling around! Come and leave when you like.

**Tuesday - Drip, Drop Pond
Wednesday - Follow a Trail
Thursday - Bird's the Word
Friday - Forest Frolic**

Free

Beginning Geocaching

Saturday, April 28th

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Join us for a short informational session on how to use a GPS and the rules for Geocaching before heading out with a naturalist to search for the caches. Bring your own GPS or check out one of ours to go out on this high tech game of hide and seek.

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

Plant Exchange

Saturday, May 12th, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Have plants you must prune or cull? How about trading your excess with others? Take home new plants for your yard and have an instant new garden. No time to re-pot your donations? No problem – bags and newspaper will do.

Free

Mother's Day Ephemeral Brunch and Spring Wildflower Walk

Sunday, May 13th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Celebrate the special woman in your life with a gift of nature. Bring the mom in your life out to Pringle for a light brunch and then on the hour, a naturalist will led a hike to see the spring ephemeral wildflowers that are blooming. **Pre-registration is due by Friday, May 4th at 3:00 p.m. When calling please indicate your meal time preference of 10:00, 11:00 or 12:00.** *Friends: \$13/General Public: \$15*

Nature Play Date/National Park Trust Kids to Park Day

Saturday, May 19th, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Make time to explore nature. We'll have several stations set up to help encourage play with natural items. By playing in nature, it will help foster a more balanced and healthy lifestyle for your children. Come 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

Fitness Hiking Club
 First Tuesday of the Month, 10:00 a.m.

Nature Story Time Hike: The Snowy Day
 January 6, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Guided Snowshoe Hike
 January 13, 1:00 p.m.

Pringle Board of Directors Meeting
 January 17, 5:00 p.m.

Nature Story Time: Best in Snow
 January 18, 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Leave No Child Inside: Snow Day
 January 20, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Blue Supermoon Night Hike
 January 31, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Nature Story Time Hike: Yonder
 February 3, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Cabin Fever Crafts: Bread Making
 February 6, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Great Backyard Bird Count – Build Your Own
 Bird Feeder
 February 10, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Valentine's Candlelight Hike
 February 10, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Cabin Fever Crafts: **Activity**
 February 13, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Nature Story Time: In the Snow
 February 15, 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Brownies Girl Scout Letterboxer Badge
 February 17, 9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Webelos Into the Woods Badge
 February 17, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Cabin Fever Crafts: Soap Making
 February 20, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Leave No Child Inside: Sky's the Limit
 February 24, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Cabin Fever Crafts: Beginning Knitting
 February 27, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Nature Story Time Hike: My Mother Talks to
 Trees
 March 3, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Junior Girl Scout Geocacher Badge
 March 3, 1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Leave No Child Inside: Owl Prowl
 March 9, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Maple Syrup Hike at Petrifying Springs
 March 10, 11:00/1:00/2:30

Nature Story Time: When Spring Comes
 March 15, 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Brownie Girl Scout Hiker Badge
 March 17, 9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Webelos Earth Rocks! Badge
 March 17, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Vernal Equinox Night Hike
 March 17, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Maple Syrup Hike at Petrifying Springs
 March 24, 11:00/1:00/2:30

Egg Drop, Roll, & Dye
 March 31, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Leave No Child Inside: Come and Explore
 Tuesday, April 3, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Leave No Child Inside: Come and Explore
 Wednesday, April 4, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Leave No Child Inside: Come and Explore
 Thursday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Leave No Child Inside: Come and Explore
 Friday, April 6, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Nature Story Time Hike: The Listening Walk
 April 7, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Junior Girl Scout Animal Habitats Badge
 April 7, 1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Pringle Board of Directors Meeting
 April 18, 5:00 p.m.

Nature Story Time: Ten Seeds
 April 19, 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Brownie Girl Scout Senses Badge
 April 21, 9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Webelos Into the Wild Badge
 April 21, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Invasive Species Workday
 April 28, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Beginning Geocaching
 April 28, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Nature Story Time Hike: Signs Along the River
 May 5, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Junior Girl Scout Flowers Badge
 May 5, 1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Plant Exchange
 May 12, 1:00 p.m.

Mother's Day Ephemeral Brunch and Spring
 Wildflower Walk
 May 13, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Brownie Girl Scout Bugs Badge
 May 19, 9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Kids to Parks Day: Nature Play Date
 May 19, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Invasive Species Workday
 May 26, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Leave No Child Inside: Batty About Bats!
 May 26, 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

You can rent snowshoes when there's at least 4" of
 snow on the ground. See our website for details.

REMEMBER:



Tuesday through Sunday
 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Phone/Fax: 262-857-8008
 Email: naturalists@pringlec.org
www.pringlec.org

9800 160th Avenue
 Bristol, WI 53104

Putting People In Touch With Nature

Pringle Nature Center