



Pringle Nature Center



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, you're 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 7,846 children and adults during the past year.



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

Pringle Board of Directors
<i>Barry Thomas</i> Chair
<i>Warren Leisemann</i> Vice-Chair
<i>Rainie Ernst</i> Treasurer
<i>Al Sommer</i> Secretary
<i>Annemarie Barry</i>
<i>Richard Heinlein</i>
<i>Barb Meyocks</i>
<i>Robert Pringle</i>
<i>Nick Spittlemeister</i>

Pringle Nature Center Staff
<i>Valerie Mann</i> Naturalist
<i>Tracy Warwick</i> 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. Nick Murphy for the fossil donation. Lou Feick for books and remelting our broken crayons.

2018 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 Bob Waldron as our 2018 Volunteer of the Year.

While volunteering at Pringle, Waldron mainly focuses on restocking the bird seed as well as the feeders and cleaning supplies. His granddaughter, Emica, comes for our summer camp program and has fun helping him fill the feeders

when he drops her off (he's now priming his grandson to come to summer camp too). Waldron and his wife come together to man the building on Sunday's and help out with the Fall Fun Fest/Migratory Bird Day Celebration.

Waldron doesn't remember when he started volunteering for the nature center but that it has been "for a long time." Both he and his wife like all subjects related to nature and wilderness as well as supporting a service that has a focus on children.

The Waldron's volunteer at Pringle Nature Center since we are close by to be able to put in their own hours into assisting something they feel important about.

When he isn't at Pringle, Waldron enjoys hiking in different parks in state/country. He also volunteers servicing those that are homeless and close to homelessness.

Thank you Bob for your dedication to the nature center!

Nature Megaphone Eagle Scout Project

Upon reading an article about architecture students from the Estonian Academy of Arts building forest megaphones, Pringle Nature Center felt that was something needed here as a way to get people to sit down and listen to nature.

We are constantly inundated with noise pollution from the hustle and bustle of living in a metropolitan area and areas of quiet, restorative silence is

being lost. The megaphone allows for the bird songs and the wind as well other natural sounds to be amplified.

The megaphone is currently on the green trail near where the old Bristol Town Hall used to be located. Sometime in the future, it will be moved to a location further from the road.

Pringle offers a wide variety of Eagle Scout and Gold Award

Girl Scout project ideas to help fulfill the requirements. Scouts wishing to complete their project for Pringle Nature Center, please contact the nature center to set up a meeting with the naturalist. We do work with the Kenosha County Parks manager when it comes to the Scout award projects as we are located in a county park.



Casey Ernst stands before his project with his mother.

Photo courtesy of Casey Ernst

School Field Trip Showcase for Teachers

Last school year, Pringle Nature Center began offering new field trips that were aligned with the Kenosha Unified's science curriculum. Teachers that have come on those field trips have expressed how much our programs help out with the science unit they are working on.

While our field trips are aligned with the KUSD science curriculum, the school can

come from anywhere to do our programs. We have had public and private schools from Racine, Trevor-Wilmot, and from over the border from Grayslake and Antioch come for programming.

One example of an activity is in the third-grade Inheritance and Traits program. The third-grade students will get to pretend they are Charles Darwin when he was studying the finches on the Galapagos Islands. Students will

get a picture of the different finches that Darwin observed and see if they can draw the same conclusions as he did.

There will be a showcase night for teachers to discover what educational resources Pringle Nature Center offers on Friday, January 25th at 6:00 p.m. with food and a drawing for one classroom (up to 30 students) to attend one of our field trips for free.

Wetland Monitoring Program

Last Spring, Pringle Nature Center Staff and board chair went to a workshop to learn about efforts for monitoring wetlands. It was decided before getting volunteers involved, we would do the monitoring itself. What we found in our monitoring was unbelievable!

This year, we would like to monitor more often than we were able to last year. This is where citizen scientists can help out.

No experience is necessary; as long as you can walk on uneven land and into water with a love of the outdoors you can help out. There will be a training on Saturday, March 30th at 10:00 a.m. where we will go over how to monitor, how to use the guides for identifying the species, and how to use the datasheets.

Monitoring our wetland areas allows us to collect baseline data, use the data collected to influence land management,

raise awareness affecting our wetlands, and research questions about what makes our wetland areas unique.

While the data collected will be beneficial to the nature center, we would like to report the data to the Wisconsin DNR's Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI). The NHI is responsible for maintaining data on the locations and status of rare species, natural communities and natural features throughout the state.

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.

Leave No Child Inside: Snow Day

Saturday, January 26th, 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, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. each day

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). Ages 18+

February 5th Bread Making/February 12th Quilting/February 19th Soap Making/February 26th 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 9th, 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

Thursday, February 14th, 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 23rd, 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 8th, 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 9th and 23rd, 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

Friday, March 22nd, 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, April 20th, 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 23rd to 26th, 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 - Earth Day/Wednesday - Follow a Trail/Thursday - Bird's the**

Word/Friday - Forest Frolic *Free*

Beginning Geocaching

Saturday, April 27th

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 11th, 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 12th, 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 10th 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 18th, 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

Leave No Child Inside: Batty About Bats!

Friday, May 31st, 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Bats eat bugs, they don't eat people. Come learn about the wonderful world of bats — how they use echolocation and how bats eat insects and not people! Pre-registration is required.

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

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

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

Nature Story Time Hike: Over & Under the Snow
 January 5, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Guided Snowshoe Hike
 January 12, 1:00 p.m.

Pringle Board of Directors Meeting
 January 12, 9:00 a.m.

Nature Story Time: Footprints in the Snow
 January 17, 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Brownie Girl Scout Hiker Badge
 January 19, 9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Webelos Into the Woods Badge
 January 19, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Leave No Child Inside: Snow Day
 January 26, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

School Field Trip Showase
 January 25, 6:00 p.m.

Nature Story Time Hike: One Winter's Day
 February 2, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Cabin Fever Crafts: Bread Making
 February 5, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Great Backyard Bird Count – Build Your Own
 Bird Feeder February 9, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Cabin Fever Crafts: Make a Quilt Sampler
 February 12, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Valentine's Candlelight Hike

February 14, 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Brownies Girl Scout Letterboxer Badge
 February 16, 9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Webelos Earth Rocks! Badge
 February 16, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Cabin Fever Crafts: Soap Making
 February 19, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Nature Story Time: Little Fox in the Snow
 February 21, 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Leave No Child Inside: Sky's the Limit
 February 23, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Cabin Fever Crafts: Beginning Knitting
 February 26, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Teacher Naturalist Training K/1
 February 27, 10:00 a.m.

Teacher Naturalist Training 2/3
 February 28, 10:00 a.m.

Teacher Naturalist Training 4/5
 March 1, 10:00 a.m.

Nature Story Time Hike: Maple Syrup Season
 March 2, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

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

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

Maple Syrup Hike at Petrifying Springs
 March 9, 11:00/1:00/2:30

Brownie Girl Scout Senses Badge
 March 16, 9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Webelos Into the Wild Badge
 March 16, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Nature Story Time: Spring Thaw
 March 21, 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Vernal Equinox Night Hike
 March 22, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Maple Syrup Hike at Petrifying Springs
 March 23, 11:00/1:00/2:30

Wetland Monitor Volunteer Training
 March 30, 10:00 a.m.

Nature Story Time Hike: Quiet
 April 6, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Junior Girl Scout Animal Habitats Badge
 April 6, 1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Pringle Board of Directors Meeting
 April 17, 5:30 p.m.

Nature Story Time: Snow Rabbit, Spring Rabbit
 April 18, 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Egg Drop, Roll, & Dye
 April 20, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Leave No Child Inside: Come and Explore
 Tuesday, April 23, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Leave No Child Inside: Come and Explore
 Wednesday, April 24, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Leave No Child Inside: Come and Explore
 Thursday, April 25, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Leave No Child Inside: Come and Explore
 Friday, April 26, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Invasive Species Workday
 April 27, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Beginning Geocaching
 April 27, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Nature Story Time Hike: The Salamander Room
 May 4, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Junior Girl Scout Flowers Badge
 May 4, 1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Plant Exchange
 May 11, 1:00 p.m.

Mother's Day Ephemeral Brunch and Spring
 Wildflower Walk
 May 12, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Nature Story Time: Waiting for Wings
 May 16, 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Brownie Girl Scout Bugs Badge
 May 18, 9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Kids to Parks Day: Nature Play Date
 May 18, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Invasive Species Workday
 May 25, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Leave No Child Inside: Batty About Bats!
 May 31, 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

REMEMBER: 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