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<i>Tracy Warwick</i> Environmental Educator
<i>Ryan Mount</i> Naturalist Educator Intern

Pringle Nature Center

“Putting People in Touch with Nature”

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www.pringlenc.org



Temporarily CLOSED to the Public

Business Hours:
9 am-4 pm Tues-Sat

From the Naturalist:

Not Closed for Business: Nature

In the last edition of the Oak Leaf, we reviewed a winter of successful nature programming and looked forward to a busy spring and summer filled with events, wildlife monitoring, and summer camps. Then the seeds hit the wind. The geese flew south. The other dew dropped. It all went bear-shaped (I know these are terrible--please write in with your best nature-themed idioms). With the growing number of covid-19 cases in southeast Wisconsin and northeast Illinois, the Pringle Nature Center board of directors made the decision to close the nature center to the public until further notice. Nature center staff will continue to post free, family-friendly nature activities to our website until we are able to safely begin the re-opening process. The trails of Bristol Woods County Park are also open to the public, with Kenosha County asking visitors to follow precautions such as social distancing and avoiding common surfaces.

And so, this edition of PNC’s newsletter will look a little different than usual. Rather than promote a typical bevy of upcoming events, we will present the social distancing-friendly programming we have implemented during our closure, introduce you to our newest team member, and take a look at summer highlights in Bristol Woods. Thankfully, nature doesn’t stop on our schedule!

Before getting to all of that, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the community of volunteers, board members, staff, program attendees, and habitual park visitors that makes Pringle Nature Center much more than a building. Recent world events have caused difficult upheavals in our lives, leading many of us to adjust our lifestyles, priorities, and values accordingly. The continuing pandemic has certainly hit small organizations like PNC hard, removing major sources of revenue. And yet, many of you are still taking out memberships, volunteering, downloading our online nature activities, or just taking refuge in the park with a hike. We hope that the outdoors will continue to be a respite for you during uncertain times. PNC will remain a resource for environmental education and recreation in the area, welcoming all members of our greater community. If you appreciate what we do and have the ability to support us during this time, we encourage you to take out a membership (or gift one!) by visiting our website at www.pringlenc.org/memberships. Any membership level will go a long way toward ensuring the future of PNC, not to mention confer a number of benefits on the holder once we are able to open our doors once again.

*Liz Alvey, Naturalist,
and the rest of your friends at Pringle Nature Center*

Virtual Nature Activities at PNC

Spending time in nature is now more important than ever, according to a mountain of research confirming its positive effects on mental well-being, physical fitness, and immune system function. Closures have challenged Pringle Nature Center, and similar institutions everywhere, with developing creative, low-contact ways for the public to access environmental education and park resources. We are happy to report that social distancing does not have to mean isolation, boredom, or even a hiatus from learning! PNC staff have been hard at work adapting our previous programs and resources into family-friendly nature-based activities available for FREE on our website. Read about some of our favorites below, or check out the whole selection at www.pringlenc.org/free.

What to do right now in Bristol Woods:

- Take a hike (and bring your four-legged friend!)
- Explore the park with our self-guided interpretive trail
- Go on a geocaching “treasure hunt”
- Start a Nature Passport and visit all the KC parks
- Try one of our Photo Challenge scavenger hunts



Nature Story Time

Join Miss Tracy as she takes her stories and crafts online! In the most recent video, Miss Tracy reads “Waiting for Wings” by Lois Ehlert and shows us how to make our very own butterfly crafts and feeders. Nature Story Time is appropriate for young kids with the help of an adult. Videos can be viewed at your leisure and most crafts require only a few household supplies.

Go on a Frog Hunt

It's peak frog spotting season in Bristol Woods! Learn how to identify common frogs by their calls, from the baritone Bullfrogs to the miniscule Chorus Frogs, then visit hundreds of amphibian and reptilian residents of the pond in front of the nature center.



Make a Trash Timeline

Why is it important to “leave no trace?” For one thing, trash takes much longer to decompose than most people realize! Demonstrate the impact of litter using just a few materials you already have in your house.

My Bird Journal

Name: _____



Pringle Nature Center



Start a Birding Journal

Birding is a year-round hobby. You can learn about the birds in the park or your own backyard by starting a birding journal today! Download the journal from our website and start making observations.

Be a Guerrilla Gardener

Human sprawl and invasive species sometimes make it difficult for native plants to find suitable habitats, but you can help them reclaim vacant areas by making seed bombs! All you need is some soil, flour, seeds, and water to plant a guerrilla wild-flower garden. Get ready to get messy!

2020 Summer Intern: Ryan Mount

Meet the newest member of the Pringle Nature Center team! Ryan Mount is our Naturalist Educator Intern for the summer of 2020, and will be with us through August. Hailing from nearby Lindenhurst, Ryan is a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls majoring in Conservation and Environmental Planning. Before starting at PNC, Ryan worked with both the Lindenhurst Park District and Lake Villa District Library on youth programs. Ryan’s passions for conservation and working with the public were evident to us straight away, and we are grateful to have his enthusiasm and ideas on our team this summer. Though summer camps are cancelled this year, Ryan will be developing several virtual and social distancing-friendly public programs, revamping educational displays, and helping maintain nature center operations while the Naturalist is on parental leave. In his spare time, Ryan is a true outdoorsman—he has used his university’s early closure to take advantage of all our region’s parks have to offer in terms of hiking, wildlife viewing, and camping. Please give Ryan a wave if you see him around the park this summer!



Support Pringle Today!

Like most small non-profits, Pringle Nature Center has experienced a major loss of revenue due to the covid-19-related closure. We are fortunate to have relatively low operating costs and some savings, but must rely on the assistance of members and other donors until we are able to safely resume regular programming. If you support our mission of “Putting People in Touch with Nature” and have the ability to contribute during this time, we encourage you to take out a membership (or gift one to family or friends!) by visiting our website at www.pringlenc.org/memberships.

Any membership level will go a long way toward ensuring the future of PNC, not to mention confer a number of benefits on the holder once we are able to open our doors once again. Donations are also always appreciated.



Memberships support educational programming such as school field trips, Home School Science, Leave No Child Inside programs, and many others

Wish List

Donations make PNC programming and exhibits possible. Whether monetary or material, all donations make a big difference. Thank you for your contribution!

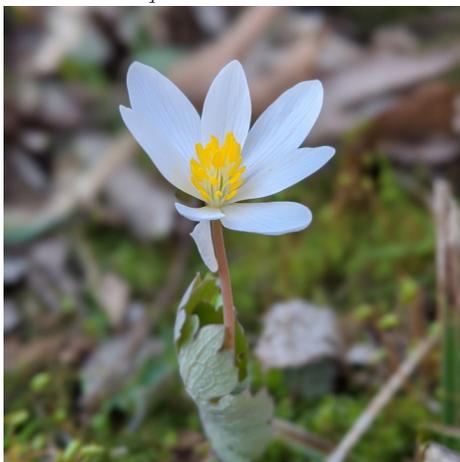
- Children’s rain & winter coats, winter boots, hats, scarves, & mittens
- Binoculars
- Aquarium & terrarium elements: tops, lights, filters, heating & cooling elements
- Turtle food
- Construction paper
- Copy paper
- Thermal laminating pouches
- Postage stamps
- Area rugs
- Bird seed
- Vacuum cleaner

Spring & Summer in Bristol Woods

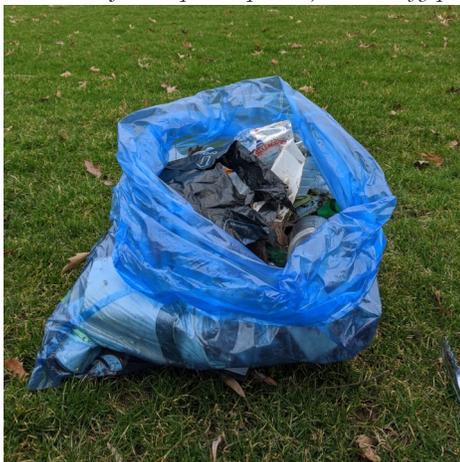
Frogs are jumping, flowers are blooming, and mosquitoes aren't yet at full strength--it's a beautiful time of year to be in Bristol Woods! In lieu of our usual events review, please enjoy some recent highlights from the park.



Left to right: an Eastern Bluebird nest full of eggs; chicks at 7 days old; and fledglings at 21 days old, ready to begin their own adult lives. We monitor the bluebird trail and report data to the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin every year to help track the status of Bluebird populations in the Midwest.



Left to right: Bloodroot, named for its red sap, is one of the early heralds of the spring ephemerals season; Red Trilliums use their striking color, foul odor, and elaiosomes (fat and protein pockets) to attract fly pollinators and ant seed dispersers; and another native, Virginia Bluebells, grows just outside the nature center.



Left to right: this bag full of litter was cleared from Bristol Woods during the April #trashtag challenge; a Garter Snake suns itself during an early spring warm snap; and one of our many Bullfrog residents sits camouflaged against some pond muck.

Psst... We want to hear from you—share photos of your own nature adventures with us online!

