



# 2010

## Summer Public Programs

**Pre-registration is required for all programs a minimum of two business days prior to program unless otherwise noted.** Please call 507-662-5064 to pre-register or send an email to: [ecologybus@ecologybus.org](mailto:ecologybus@ecologybus.org). Any additional summer programs and events in addition to those listed here will be posted on the Prairie Ecology Bus Center's website: [www.ecologybus.org](http://www.ecologybus.org). Click on the "Programs" link. Program fees are listed and class fee is payable at the time of the program unless otherwise noted. Programs listed with an ( \* ) next to rate have special family pricing for families of 4 or more persons – please call for rates. To send pre-payments, please mail checks to PEBC, PO Box 429, Lakefield, MN 56150. Interested in becoming a member and receive program discounts? Membership information is available at the PEBC office or online.

### MAY

#### **Community Garden Planting Day**

**May 15, (rain date May 23), 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
FREE, Public and Groups welcome!**

We're anxious to get our Children's Community Garden ready to grow and invite the public to come out and help us with some preliminary preparation and planting. We'll be setting out garden frames, chipping pathways, pulling any early weeds, outlining growing areas and starting to plant seeds and seedlings. Soon after, our summer-long Children's Garden Camp will begin so, if you'd like to donate an hour or more of your time, we'd love the extra helping hands! Interested? Call Marilyn at the PEBC at 507-662-5064 for more information!

#### **Buds 'n Blooms Wildflower Hike at Kilen Woods State Park**

**May 22, 9:00-11:00 a.m. for families and adults.  
Cost: PEBC members: \$5\*/person; non-members \$7\*/person**

It's fun for the whole family on this naturalist-led hike to enjoy the late spring/early summer wildflowers of this beautiful riverside forest. Explore the remaining blossoms of the earliest bloomers and search for the budding flora of the next wave of petals that will grace the woods. Learn fascinating history behind traditional uses of wildflowers and be sure to bring your cameras! Program will require a park sticker or day pass for your car (can be purchased at the park). Meet at the main picnic shelter near the entrance. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy walking shoes. Please call to register at the PEBC office at least two days prior to program.

#### **UFO Pulling Party**

**May 22, 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

**FREE, open to families, adults, groups welcome**

We are on a mission to search and destroy UFOs in Sparks Park! These Unwanted Flowering Objects include garlic mustard and buckthorn – both highly invasive plants in Minnesota. Never seen a UFO before? We'll teach you how to spot these alien invaders and have a little friendly competition to see who can pull and bag the most of these invasive species! As a reward, you'll be able to snack on tasty garlic mustard pesto! Pre-registration required. Bring gloves and wear good walking shoes.

### JUNE

#### **ALL NEW! Children's Garden Camp**

**Starting May 21 through September 7, summer hours are 9:00-11:00 a.m., one day each week for youth having completed 2nd through 6th grades.**

The PEBC Children's Community Garden is THE place for growing adventures! Plant seeds. Meet insects. Make compost. Taste weeds. Dig carrots. Feed birds. Build scarecrows. Share the harvest. All these and many more intriguing adventures await this summer's crop of Children's Gardeners. This camp will begin mid-May and continue into September. Days and times vary but meet for 2 hours each week to learn about and help in the garden and take part in creative activities. Every day is a fun, learning adventure. For detailed camp information, visit PEBC's website or call 507-662-5064.

#### **Going Green Day Camp**

**June 15-17, 9:00-11:00 a.m. each day for youth having completed grades K - 2nd**

**Cost: PEBC members: \$35/person; non-members \$40/person**

**Sometimes there's more than meets the eye** outside. In the woods live green beings, towering in the sky, reaching for the sun itself. Some wrap their long arms around each other, slithering up the bodies of their neighbors. Others lurk underfoot, waiting. We call the brave scientists who study them... botanists. In this fun camp you will become a budding botanist and explore the wild green world of the forest: plants, flowers, shrubs and trees. Attendees will have fun hunting for the treasures of the timber using secret maps, creating crafts out of nature itself, and doing many other fun activities. Dress for the outdoors.

#### **Water Olympics Day Camp**

**June 15-17, 1:00-4:00 p.m. each day for youth having completed grades 3rd – 6th**

**Cost: PEBC members: \$45/person; non-members \$50/person**

Water is all around us even though we can't always see it. The most obvious places we find water are lakes, rivers and oceans, but it's also in the ground, in the air and in the living things around us. Among the many aquatic activities lined up for the week, we'll explore where water is found as we go on a "water journey" and

we'll be in the water learning its health using scientific tests. Topping off our camp will be our very own Water Olympic competitions! Dress for the outdoors.

### **Eco-Tour on the Eco-Bus**

**June 28, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Cost: FREE**

Summer is a perfect time for a field trip! Ready to explore lakes and prairies? Students having completed grades 5 to 8 are invited to participate in a one-day excursion aboard the Ecology Bus. Participants will learn about the beauty of our natural environment while studying lake and land plants and wildlife habitat. They will also explore watershed projects and go fishing at Kilen Woods State Park. Dress for the weather. Bring your own sack lunch, sunscreen and bug spray. This project is sponsored by the Heron Lake Watershed District and Department of Natural Resources in cooperation with the Prairie Ecology Bus Center. Participants must preregister by June 21st by calling the HLWD office at 507-793-2462. Meet at the HLWD office at 1008 3rd Ave. in Heron Lake at 9:15 to sign in and load the Ecology Bus.

### **Dutch Oven Cooking – Breakfast & Beyond**

**June 29, 6:00-7:30 p.m. for families and adults  
Cost: PEBC members: \$7\*/person; non-members \$10\*/person**

Some might think the only way to have great tasting food is to use fancy kitchen cookware, but it's not true! The Pioneers managed to cook fabulous meals without a microwave or new age stove. You'll be amazed at what you can cook in a Dutch oven using coals and how simple it can be! Join us to learn basic Dutch oven cooking techniques and learn how to make (and taste!) a yummy breakfast meal in a Dutch. Bring your appetite! Deadline to register: June 25, 2010.

### **Nature's Night Lights**

**June 30, 8:00-9:30 pm for families and adults  
Cost: PEBC members: \$5\*/person; non-members \$7\*/person**

They're nature's own flashlights. They flicker and sparkle on mid-summer's nights like twinkling Christmas lights decorating meadows and forest edges. Fireflies, commonly known as lightening bugs, aren't flies or bugs – they're beetles! The flashing that we see is communication between males and females. Learn about the basics of firefly identification (we have more than one species!), what causes the insects to light up, how they communicate and more. Weather and insects permitting, we'll hike through Sparks Park in search of the beetles.

## **JULY**

### **Super Senses!**

**July 7, 9:00-10:00 a.m. for preschoolers ages 4+ and their caregivers**

**Cost: PEBC members: \$5/person; non-members \$7/person (caregivers/parents attend free)**

As humans, we rely a lot on our sense of sight to learn about the world around us. However, there is so much more to experience by using all of our senses – especially when exploring nature! Using our senses of touch, smell, hearing and sight (sorry, no tasting), we'll explore Sparks Park doing totally fun activities like a blindfold walk, a "nose-knows" experiment and more!

Don't miss this touchy-feely, sniffy-smelly, chirpy-croaky fun class!

### **Do-It-Yourself Terrariums**

**July 22, 6:00-7:30 p.m. for youth ages 14+ through adults**

**Cost: PEBC members: \$30/person; non-members \$35 person Pre-registration deadline July 1, 2010 – Fee paid in advance.**

Are you lacking the time or outdoor space to have a large garden? Do you enjoy digging in the soil and nurturing living things? If so, you are a prime candidate for this class! Even if you have an outdoor garden, this mini-garden can be enjoyed year-round. A terrarium is a miniature, self-contained environment grown in a container. Whether it's filled with mossy rocks and ferns or sands and cactus, a terrarium is a fun way to enjoy and learn more about nature. With a terrarium in your room, something of the outdoors can always be inside! All materials, including plants and glass terrarium jar, supplied.

## **AUGUST**

### **Decorator Gourd Bowls**

**August 3 & 10, 6:00-8:00 p.m. each day open to youth ages 14+ through adult**

**Cost: PEBC members: \$30/person; non-members \$35/person Pre-registration deadline July 25, 2010 – Fee paid in advance.**

Gourds have been used for centuries to create, not only useful tools and instruments, but also provide for beautiful decorations. Under the direction of Suzanne LaMaack, local gourd artist, you'll ply your creativity and learn how to grow, cure and decorate gourds for yourself or give as gifts. In this two-part class, participants will be able to select a gourd to work on and learn to clean, prepare and practice various decorating techniques such as staining and wood burning, while creating a beautiful gourd bowl. Bring your own pair of rubber gloves. If you have wood burning tools, bring them, too. All other supplies will be provided. Dress casual and be prepared for messy, yet entertaining, evenings of crafting using one of Mother Nature's useful plants! Limited to 10 participants.

### **Wild at Art**

**August 11, 9:00-11:00 a.m. for youth having completed grades K - 2nd  
1:00-3:00 p.m. for youth having completed grades 3 – 6th**

**Cost: PEBC members: \$8/person; non-members \$10/person**

See the world as you have never seen it before! Nature can be the source of wonderful ideas for creative fun. Enjoy hikes, explore painting and craft projects inspired by the plants and animals that live in Sparks Park. Dress for the outdoors and wear clothes that can get dirty.

Visit the PEBC website at

**[www.ecologybus.org](http://www.ecologybus.org)**