



Pre-registration required: 507-662-5064

**Pre-registration is required for all programs a minimum of two business days prior to program unless otherwise noted. Classes may be cancelled for insufficient pre-registrations.**

Please call 507-662-5064 to pre-register or send an email to: [ecologybus@ecologybus.org](mailto:ecologybus@ecologybus.org). Class fee is payable at the time of the program. Programs take place at the PEBC, Sparks Park, 935 North Highway 86, Lakefield, MN 56150. Become a member and receive program discounts! Membership information is available at the PEBC office or online.

### Calendar at a Glance

#### JANUARY

- 13 Raptor Rendezvous
- 19 Strange Creatures
- 26 Space Adventurers
- 28 Snowshoe Romp

#### FEBRUARY

- 4 Groundhogs
- 4 Greeting Cards
- 7 Owl Prowl
- 16 Oh, Knots!
- 18 Winter Games
- 24 Solar Energy
- 28 Ice Age Monsters

#### MARCH

- 6 Animal Tools & Tales
- 13 Pioneer Games
- 17 Maple Syruping
- 31 Sounds of Spring
- 31 Birding for Beginners

#### RAPTOR RENDEZVOUS – *Special Guest!*

**January 13, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.** Adults & families

Members-\$5/person or \$15/family; Non-members-\$8/person or \$20/family

One of nature's most fascinating groups of animals is the birds of prey. They come equipped with awesome adaptations that enable them to successfully survive and capture their prey. Join guest speaker and area falconer, Dr. Ross Dirks, to see a live peregrine falcon and explore the biology, ecology and life history of these extraordinary hunters in the sky! Dr. Dirks has also been involved with peregrine falcon recovery and raptor rehabilitation. Don't miss this opportunity to meet a falcon and learn about this extraordinary group of birds! Refreshments will be served. *(Note: program will be held at Lakefield's Multi-Purpose Community Center at 112 Main Street.)*

#### STRANGE CREATURES OF MINNESOTA

**January 19, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** Youth gr. K-6 (parents attend free!) Cost: \$5/person, \$10/family

When it comes to the strange and unusual, you don't have to look far to find it! Minnesota has its own collection of odd and unusual creatures. Mother Nature has provided us with some very weird, very strange wild neighbors! We are home to North America's only marsupial and also our only poisonous mammal! Not only that, we have our very own walking pincushions and animals whose teeth never stop growing! Come find out which ones top the list as the weirdest critters and find out if any of them live near you!

#### SPACE ADVENTURERS

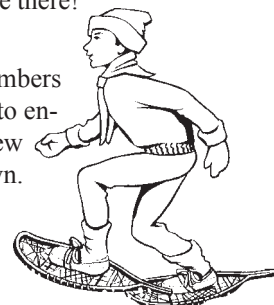
**January 26, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** Open to youth grades K-2 (parents can attend for free!) Cost: \$5/person - \$10/family

Who is the man on the moon? Why can't we see stars during the day? How do they fall out of the sky? Come on this space adventure and find out. We will journey to a nearby star, visit its strangest planet, a place they call "Earth," and enjoy the view from its surface. And as curious space explorers we will have to try some of the fun activities of the odd Earthlings while we are there!

#### TROMP, STOMP, AND SNOWSHOE ROMP

**January 28, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.** Open to youth and families Cost: \$5/person for members, \$8/person for non-members

Our annual snowshoe hike is here again! Snowshoeing is a great way to have fun in the snow and rediscover how to enjoy winter like a kid. Join the PEBC for a hike on the trails of Sparks Park and see the winter scenery in a whole new way. We'll top off the afternoon with a belly-warming mug of hot cocoa! Snowshoes are provided or bring your own. Snowshoes are limited (especially for younger children) so call early to register!



#### Storybook Science Series: GROUNDHOGS

**February 4, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.** Pre-School-1st grade Cost: \$5/child, caregivers attend free

They say the groundhog has a magical gift and can tell us when spring will be here. Could this really be true or is it just a silly story? Also known as the woodchuck, this small animal indeed has many talents. Come find out what they are through fun activities and a story book.

#### RECYCLED GREETING CARDS

**February 4, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.** Youth ages 13 years & up Cost: \$5/members, \$7/non-members

Do you have boxes full of beautiful leftover or used greeting cards and you don't know what to do with them? Here is an opportunity to turn them into something new! Bring with you five of your favorite cards (new or used) to make a gift box, a basket, an ornament, CD mobile, and a new greeting card. We supply the rest of the materials. Once you learn these crafts, you can go wild creating more at home

for yourself or for friends!

### FULL MOON OWL PROWL

**February 7, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** Open to all ages  
Cost: \$5/person-members (\$15/family); \$7/person- non-members (\$20/family)

This will be a real hoot! Join a PEBC naturalist on a night hike through the moon-lit woods and learn about our local owls. We'll use owl callers to try to get the owls to talk and maybe even have them fly in to check us out. Snowshoes will be available if necessary – be sure to wear winter boots and dress for the weather.



### OH, KNOTS!

**February 16, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

For youth in grades 3-6 Cost: \$5/members, \$7/non-members  
We may not like knots in our kite strings or knots in our shoelaces, but some knots are very handy to have! Maybe you'll do a little fishing this winter or some canoeing next spring. Perhaps you'll sit around the campfire or do some camping. There are special knots you can use for all these activities that you won't want to be without! Learn handy knots and dazzle your friends and family with clever rope tying skills! You'll even make a knot kit to take home!

### WINTER GAMES

**February 18, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.** For youth grades K-6  
Cost: \$5/ \$15 for families of 3 or more

Do you suffer from cabin fever? That means it's time to come over to Sparks Park and have some winter fun! Join a PEBC naturalist to rediscover the winter wonderland all around you. We will become snow detectives and track the animals that call the park home. You will also leave your own tracks as we make snow art and snow forts! Of course after all that fun we'll have to head back inside for a winter craft and hot cocoa! Dress for the outdoors.

### SOLAR & ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AT HOME & ON THE FARM – *Special Guest!*

**February 24, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

Open to adults

Cost: \$5/members \$7/non-members

Join guest speaker, Gregg Heide, and PEBC staff for this informative talk on using solar panels to power your home or farm! Mr. Heide, an Iowa-based advocate for farmer-owned alternative energy, will give a presentation on the large solar array he recently installed. He's an expert in investing in small alternative energy projects in Iowa and Minnesota so don't miss this unique opportunity to explore alternative energy options for your home or business! Refreshments will be served.



### THE ICE-AGE MONSTERS OF MINNESOTA

**February 28, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** Youth gr. 2-6 (parents free!)  
Cost: \$5/person, \$10/family

Sheets of ice a mile thick cover much of Minnesota. Huge, strange animals roam the cold, windswept plains: woolly mammoths, giant sloths twenty feet tall, bears as big as a car! Welcome to America – 15,000 years ago. Learn about the freakiest, biggest, meanest creatures to ever roam Minnesota while playing games in this fun-filled program.

### ANIMAL TOOLS & TALES

**March 6, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** Youth gr. 3-6 (parents free!)

Cost: \$5/person, \$10/family

Nutcracker, snowshoes, paddle, coat and radar. What do these things have in common? If you said animal tools, you are right! These are just some of the cool tools animals have built in to help them survive. Join PEBC staff as we learn what animals have these tools, how they use them and many more quirky critter features through funny activities and goofy games.

### LOG CABIN-FEVER – PIONEER GAMES

**March 13, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** Youth gr. 1-4 (parents free!)

Cost: \$5/person, \$10/family Minnesota, 1880. The winter is long and cold on the prairie. Everyone is bored, stuck inside and restless. What to do, what to do... Video games! Nope – try again! TV! Not a chance – there's no electricity! Text a friend! Maybe with a pencil and paper... So what's a kid do for fun? Play games! Join a PEBC naturalist and learn fun activities and crafts that your great-great-grandma and grandpa used to play to survive the boredom of the endless Minnesota winters. Log cabin not required.

### MAPLE SYRUPING

**March 17, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.** For families & adults

Cost: \$5/members, \$15/family; \$8/non-members, \$20/family

How are trees and breakfast related? Maple syrup, of course! Winter is coming to an end, days are getting longer and the sap is starting to run. If you've ever been curious as to how trees are tapped and how syrup is made, you'll want to sign up for this delicious class! Join PEBC staff to learn the history and traditions of pioneers and Native Americans in maple syrup making! Dress for the weather – we'll be outside.

### Storybook Science Series: SOUNDS OF SPRING

**March 31, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.** Pre-School-1st grade

Cost: \$5/child, caregivers attend free

The first day of spring is March 21! Ribbit, ribbit is one of the many sounds we might hear this spring as frogs and toads come out of their winter homes. Trickle, trickle. Spring brings warm weather melting any snow which trickles through streams. Chirp, chirp. Spring brings birds who are busy making nests and laying eggs. Join us to learn more about these sounds with a story book and a short hike through Sparks Park!

### BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS

**March 31, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

Open to youth and adults

Cost: \$5/person - \$15/family

How many times have you seen a bird and wished you knew its name? Or, perhaps, you couldn't find it in a bird guide? Birding for the beginner can be intimidating! But, fear not! Help is on the way. In this class, you'll learn the basics of how to really SEE a bird; to recognize several common birds by sight and sound; and practice identifying them using binoculars and field guides as we stroll through Sparks Park looking for our winged neighbors! No experience necessary. Bring your own binoculars or use ours. Wear good walking shoes and dress for the weather.

