



ELC

Red Wing Environmental Learning Center

Volume 2008, No. 1

Spring 2008

INSTRUCTOR GRADS HEAD OFF TO THE OWYHEE RIVER

The instructor Grads for 2008 are planning and preparing for their expedition. Most Instructor grads go on the expedition sometime in the summer after they graduate. This group decided that they wanted to tackle the Owyhee River which flows most heavily in the spring months. That has put them in fast planning mode. As the time quickly approaches, they are nailing down the details of this trip. Sam Betcher, Scotty Gillmer, Travis Isakson, Andy Knudsen, Leighton Reese, Bryce Smith, Jeff Schafer and Matt Wildenborg are looking at about 150 mile section of the river. They will put rafts and kayaks in at the YP Ranch which is located in SW Idaho and travel to Rome, in SE Oregon. Two of our staff and two volunteers will head out on this trip which promises, class 1-5 rapids, many extraordinary side hikes and sleepy reptiles in this high desert area. Everyone is excited about this incredible opportunity for this group and knowing them, they'll have stories to tell!



Sharon Marty and Carrie O'Rourke working in Two Harbors

FAMILY WORKER BEE OPPORTUNITY

The Two Harbors cabin is near completion. We have so many people to thank for helping us for their help with this project.. It has been amazing. In November we had about a dozen families come up to help with cabin projects. Even the youngest ones were a great help! If you haven't had a chance to help and would like to, there is still time.

We will be doing some work at the ELC the week of April 15th through the 18th If you would like to come out and work on buck-thorn banisters and railings, please call us for available work times.

The weekend of May 2-4, 2008, students and families are encouraged to come up to the cabin to work on some of the finishing projects. We will have the ELC van to take anyone who wants to carpool up. You are welcome to stay at the cabin or the local hotel.



Cold water paddling on the Kinnickinic River December 2007

ELC Spring Registration

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 15, 2008

Email (preferred): rwelc@redwing.net
Or call 388-7339

Please indicate 1st, 2nd, 3rd choices
after the 15th, you will be placed on a waiting list!

ENTRY LEVEL PROGRAMS

Entry Level programs are one day activities that allow students to try a program and be introduced to interesting natural areas in the Red Wing area. A participant **MUST** complete the entry level programs before being allowed to participate in corresponding seasonal core programs.

EXPLORE THE BLUFF COUNTRY

Minimum Age 6th Grade

Bushwhack up and down the coulees and follow the spectacular limestone cliff edge as close as possible. This challenging day offers outstanding scenic view high above Lake Pepin, eye level observations of turkey vultures and eagles.

Date: Choose one: April 5th, April 19th April 26th

Time: 9:00am – 3:00pm

Fee: \$20.00



ENTRY LEVEL PROGRAMS CONTINUED ..

BIKING INTRODUCTION

Minimum Age: 6th Grade

This activity is an introduction to the bike touring core program

Learn how to tune up your bike, discuss bike safety, take a local tour, and identify flora and fauna along the bike trail.

Date: Choose one: May 28th, May 29th

Time: 2:30-7:00pm

fee: \$20.00

ROCK CLIMBING INTRODUCTION

Minimum Age: 6th Grade

This is a half day activity that is conducted at Barn Bluff. It is an opportunity to experience Rock Climbing. Topics covered include the history of Barn Bluff, climbing techniques and rock climbing safety.

Dates: Choose one:: May 31st, 9-12, 12-3

Fee: \$20.00



CANOEING INTRODUCTION

Minimum Age: 6th Grade

Learn about and practice important canoeing techniques, you will also become familiar with ELC safety policies. You will travel in the Mississippi River backwaters where you are sure to see some interesting wildlife!

Date: May 15th 2:30-8pm, May 31st 9-3

Fee: \$20.00

CORE PROGRAMS

BACKPACKING LEVEL II

Minimum Age: 7th grade

Prerequisite: Completion of Backpacking I and completion of or enrollment in Explore the Bluff Country.

This three day backpacking trip will take place in the Rainbow lake Wilderness Area in the Chequamegon National Forest in Northern Wisconsin. Activities on this trip include outdoor cookery, securing safe water, proper clothing selection, wildlife observation, navigation with map and compass and practicing low impact camping.

Activity	Dates/Times
Orientation	May 6 th 2:30 – 5:00pm
Skills/Ecology/	May 8 th 2:30 – 7:00pm
Trip: Leave 8am Return 4:30pm	May 16 th – 18 th
Wrap up potluck with parents	May 20 th 6:00 – 7:30pm

Fee: \$85.00



ELECTIVES

PIONEERING

Minimum Age: 6th grade

Participants spend an overnight in a unique log cabin built by former ELC students. Time is spent learning outdoor cookery and pioneering skills.

Activity	Date:
Cabin Skills: 2:30 shuttle-6:00	April 8 th
Cabin Skills: 2:30 shuttle-6:00	April 10 th
Overnight: Leave 4:30pm-Return 3:00pm	April 11-12

Fee: \$40.00

ELECTIVE PROGRAMS CONTINUED ..

BASIC ARCHERY

Minimum Age 7th grade

Basic Archery, a prerequisite for bow hunting programs, teaches students the basic shooting skills needed for other archery programs. Shooting games and a 3-D target shoot hone the skills of each participant. The objectives are::

- To have a basic knowledge of archery equipment and an understanding of the safety precautions needed.
- To understand the fundamentals of shooting and their relationship to field situations.
- To know and understand the limitations of archery equipment and to accept the personal limitations of the bowhunter.

There will be numerous shooting practice and competition activities. The ELC can provide archery equipment, if needed.

Activity	Dates/Times
Orientation	May 7 th 2:30 - 6:00 pm
Shooting Session 1	May 8 th 2:30 - 6:00 pm
Shooting Session 2	May 9 th 2:30 - 6:00 pm
3-D Shoot	May 10 th 9:00 - 3:00pm
Shooting Session 3	May 13 th 2:30 – 6:00

Fee: \$60.00

SUGAR MAPLE TAPPING

Minimum Age 7th grade

Learn to identify the sap-producing trees in our area. Identify and make your own spiles from elderberry shoots. You will become involved with the complete tapping project, from selecting trees to tapping and boiling down the sap. Each participant will make a pint of maple syrup and enjoy some at the pancake supper. Students are encouraged to visit S&S Sugarbush during their open house April 18-20. **Students in groups 1 & 2 will also collect sap once between March 10-14. Students in groups 3 & 4 will collect sap once between March 17-21**

Activity:	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Orientation	March 6 2:30-5	March 6 2:30-5	March 6 2:30-5	March 6 2:30-5
Tapping	March 8 9:00-12:00	March 8 9:00-12:00	March 8 12:30-3:30	March 8 12:30-3:30
Boiling	March 15 9:00-12:00	March 15 12:00 -3:00	March 22 9:00-12:00	March 22 12:00-3:00
Pancake Supper:	March 27 th 5:30-7pm	March 27 th 5:30-7pm	March 27 th 5:30-7pm	March 27 th 5:30-7pm

Fee: \$40.00

ADVENTURE CHALLENGE

3 Adventure Challenge programs = One program credit



FLOODWATER CANOE CAMPING

Minimum Age: 7th grade

Prerequisite: Completion of Canoeing I

This course was brought back as an ELC classic but has proved to be so much fun that we have added it again this year. The spring floods provide a wonderful opportunity to explore and experience the Cannon Bottoms in the flooded state. We turn the canoes into floating platforms on which we cook and sleep. There are many opportunities to observe various wildlife adapting to floods.

Dates: April 12th 9:00am-4:00pm,

Overnight April 18th 3:00pm - April 19th 3:00pm

Fee: \$40.00

BACKYARD BIRDS

Minimum Age: 6th grade

What birds stay in Minnesota in the winter? Find out how to identify them, why they stay and what they need to stay here. You will leave the course with a feeder that you have constructed to establish a feeding station in your own backyard.

Date: March 18th 2:30-5:00pm, March 20th

9am-3pm

Fee: 30.00 includes materials and bird seed

OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Minimum Age: 8th grade

This course will introduce students to the basics of outdoor photography. Time will be spent discussing composition, light, camera selection, adjustments, and much more. We will utilize these skills on a photography nature hunt.

Date: May 22nd 2:30-5pm and May 24th 9:00am-3:00pm

Fee: 40.00

ADVENTURE CHALLENGES CONT.

TROUT FISHING

Minimum Age: 8th grade and completion of Canoeing I

Students will become familiar with gear, species identification local streams and casting. Practice fly fishing on Pottery Pond in preparation for our outing on the Kinnickinick River.

Activity/Times	Group 1
Orientation	May 1 st 2:30 – 5:30pm
Skills Day	May 6 th 2:30-8:00pm
Trip	Leave at 7:00am on May 16 th Pick up at 5:00pm on May 17 th
Wrap up/potluck With parent and student	May 23 rd 6:00-7:30

Fee: \$40.00



YOUNG EXPLORERS

Young explorers is a new group that we tried this winter for the first time, it was so much fun that we thought we'd try a couple more. If you are interested in signing up, please call or email (preferred) to sign up. A parent is required to attend the course with the preschooler and the program will be on a first come first served basis. We will send out a schedule and paperwork. Forms and payments will be due March 1st. We have two exciting programs to offer for the spring.

SUGAR MAPLE TAPPING

Preschoolers will be able to learn about the process of tapping a tree, boiling the sap and tasting the maple syrup. This program will be conducted at our cabin in the Haycreek area.

Date: March 19th from 9:00am – Noon

Fee: \$10.00 for a student and parent

CANOEING

Students will be able to learn basic water safety, parts of a canoe, how to identify wildlife and simply enjoy being outdoors during the springtime. This program will introduce students to the backwaters of the Mississippi River.

Date: April 26th 9:00-12:30

Fee: \$15.00 for a student and parent



Samantha and Lauren enjoying our first Young Explorers program

Smart Town Card Update

Thank you to those of you who are using your Smart Town cards. We have received over \$100.00 so far!

If you don't have a card yet, we have them at the ELC. They are free and you earn cash back and cash for your favorite non-profit organization by shopping locally!

EARTH DAY

Earth Day celebration is on **April 19, 2008**. There are many ways to live earth conscience but one thing we can do to celebrate this day is to join forces with Sargent's Nursery and plant a tree. Trees absorb carbon dioxide and give off oxygen. They are an integral part of the natural atmospheric exchange cycle here on earth. One tree can absorb approximately one ton of carbon dioxide during its lifetime. This is part of the United Nations "Billion Tree Campaign", whose goal it is to plant over a billion trees worldwide and raise awareness of the global benefits of planting trees, its one great way for us to combat the effects of automobiles, manufacturing and other human activities that produce carbon dioxide. Sargents Nursery has donated space for us to sell discounted seedlings along with the events and sale they will be having !

2007 Firearms Safety Class Sponsored by the Red Wing Wild Life League

This year's firearm safety class is scheduled as follows:

April 14 th	6:00pm – 9:00pm
April 21 st	6:00pm – 9:00pm
April 28 th	6:00pm – 9:00pm
May 3 rd	All Day Field Day
May 5 th	6:00pm – 9:00pm

Registration is from 6:00 – 6:30pm the first night and the cost is \$10.00. Make checks payable to the Red Wing Wild Life League. Students must be 11 years old by the start of this course. Parents are required to attend The first night's session. If you have any questions, Please call Jason Jech at 388-7339

***This course is a prerequisite for certain ELC programs**

The ELC staff has new email addresses! To register for classes or anything administrative the email is the same: rwelc@redwing.net.

To reach Jason Jech email rwelcjason@redwing.net

Brad Nagel is rwelcbrad@redwing.net

Chad Nelson is rwelcchad@redwing.net