



ELC

Red Wing Environmental Learning Center

Volume 2013 No. 1

Spring 2013

Minnesota Wintering Bald Eagles and More!

On June 20, 1782, the founding fathers of the United States of America selected the bald eagle as the national bird. Symbolic of the country itself, powerful and beautiful, the bald eagle has since gone through some trying times from being poisoned, trapped, shot, and even killed for bounty. Since the bald eagle was declared an endangered species in 1967, recovery has been impressive, especially in Minnesota. The population has now exceeded its recovery goal of 300 nesting pairs and is growing by about 30 nesting pairs per year according to the Minnesota DNR Website. Eagles have expanded their range from northern Minnesota into southeastern Minnesota as well. In 1988, they even began nesting along the Minnesota River Valley in western Minnesota for the first time in over 100 years. In 2007, it was estimated the Minnesota population is over 2,300 pairs, which is the most for any state other than Alaska.



If you combine the sheer number of bald eagles with your ability to be close enough to view and photograph, you will understand that we live in one of the best bald eagle viewing areas in the entire state. **In February, you will have two different opportunities to learn more about this amazing bird.**

Hlawatha Valley Audubon Society education event

February 2nd 9:30-3:00 pm at Colvill Park

See schedule of events on page 8

National Eagle Center will provide a program for ELC Instructor Naturalists and the community.

February 21st at 6:30 pm in the Anderson Center Barn.

Open to the public (free will donation)- we hope to see you there.



We are extremely fortunate with our ability to observe, enjoy and learn about the bald eagle in Red Wing. **Just last week over 125 bald eagles were seen roosting in the Colvill Park area.**

ELC SPRING REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 15, 2013

Please email (preferred) rwelcoffice@gmail.com or call (651) 388-7339 indicating your 1st, 2nd, 3rd choices (you may list as many programs as you would like).

Financial Assistance Scholarships are Available!

Please call 388-7339 or email rwelcoffice@gmail.com.

ENTRY LEVEL PROGRAMS

Entry Level programs are one day activities that allow students to try a program and be introduced to interesting natural environments in the Red Wing area.

EXPLORE THE BLUFF LANDS Fee: \$20.00

Minimum Age 6th Grade

Come and spend a day exploring the best of what spring has to offer in the Red Wing area. Students will sign up for one day of exploration. Your day will be any one of many opportunities in nature depending on the conditions.



Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
April 17 th 2:30 pm -8:00 pm	May 11 th 9:00 am-3:00 pm	May 18 th 9:00 am-3:00 pm

CORE PROGRAMS

PIONEERING I Fee: \$45.00

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. The students will have fun night hiking, playing outdoor games, chopping wood and taking a sauna. Weather permitting, the pioneers will make their own maple syrup.



Activity	Date:
Cabin Skills: 2:40 shuttle-5:00	March 13 th
Overnight: Leave 4:00 pm Return 3:00pm Parents can join us for pancakes and maple syrup at 11:00 pm on May 16 th	March 15 th – 16 th

BACKPACKING LEVEL I

Fee: \$55.00

Minimum Age: 6th Grade

Participants will learn to navigate with a map and compass. General backpacking and camping skills including outdoor cookery. This is a two day camping trip to the Tiffany Wildlife Area near Pepin, WI.



Activity	Date/Time
Orientation	May 14 2:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Ecology/Skills	May 18 th 9:00am -3:00pm
Trip:	Leave: *May 24 th 9:00 am Return : May 25 2:00 pm

*school day

CORE PROGRAMS

WHITEWATER KAYAKING II

Fee: \$125.00

Minimum Age: 7th grade

Come learn the basic to whitewater kayaking. The first day, we will learn the basic of paddling a play boat. Lots of time will be spent wet exiting and learning how to turn our boats. The trip will be spent in Northern WI car camping in the evenings at National Forest Campgrounds and paddling various sections of the Brule River during the day.

Orientation	April 24	2:30 pm – 5:30
Skills	April 27	9:00 am-3:00 pm
Trip Leave:	*May 3rd	8:00 am
Return	May 5 th	6:00 pm
Wrap up/Potluck	May 16	6:00-7:30 pm



SPELUNKING LEVEL II

Fee: \$75.00

Minimum Age: 7th grade

Prerequisite: Spelunking I

In this program you will visit Niagara Cave, a commercial cave near Harmony, MN as well as Coldwater Cave in Northeastern Iowa. Students will view and learn about various speleothems and geographic features. There is an underground river running through it so students will wear wetsuits that the ELC will provide. Pick a group:

Activity	Group 1	Group 2
Orientation	March 12th 2:30 -5:00	March 12th 2:30 -5:00
Trip	March 16 th 7am – 7pm	March 17 th 7am – 7pm



*school day

ELECTIVES

FLOODWATER CANOE CAMPING Fee: \$40.00

Minimum Age: 7th grade

This course was brought back as an ELC classic but has proved to be so much fun that we have added it again. 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.

Activity	Date
Orientation:	April 3 rd 2:30 -5:00pm
Trip: Leave Return	April 5 th 3:00 PM April 6 th 1:00 PM



YOUNG WOMEN IN THE WOODS- HIGH SCHOOL Fee: \$120.00

Minimum Age: 8th Grade

Take on the North Shore with your fellow female ELCers and **bring a friend!** Our to-do list rock climbing at Shovel Point, camping on the beach, experiencing the culture of Grand Marais, and living the cabin life.

Activity/Time	Date
Orientation 2:30-5:00	April 24 th
Trip: Leave: 3:00 pm Return: Approx. 7:00 pm	*May 2 nd May 5 th

MUZZLELOADER SHOOT Fee: \$20.00

Minimum Age: 8th Grade

Prerequisite: Hunter safety certificate

Come and learn how to safely load, shoot and clean a muzzleloader shotgun and rifle. Participants can use their own if they have them or they may use the ELC's

April 13 th 9:00 am -3:00 pm

FLOODWATER KAYAKING TRIP Fee: \$40.00

Minimum Age: 7th grade

The spring floods provide a wonderful opportunity to explore and experience the Cannon Bottoms in the flooded state. There are many opportunities to observe various wildlife adapting to high water..

Activity	Date
Orientation:	April 16 th 2:30-6:00
Trip: Leave: Return	April 19 th 3:00 pm April 20 th 1:00 pm



**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE.
PLEASE CONTACT THE ELC FOR DETAILS.**

ELECTIVES

KAYAK THE KINNICKINNIC Fee: \$25

Minimum age: 6th grade

The day will be spent kayaking down the Kinnickinnic River near River Falls, WI. The riffles and turns will be a fun way to learn the basics of whitewater paddling.



Date	Time
June 1 st	8:00 am -4:00 pm

FOSSIL HUNT Fee: \$25

Minimum Age: 6th grade

We will go on a fossil hunt for ancient sea critters. Ed Ward will be our interpreter and story teller of each treasure found.

NEW!

Date	Time
May 4 th	9:00 am- 4:00 pm

NORTH SHORE MULTI-SPORT TRIP

Minimum Age: 9th grade

Fee: \$120

NEW!

Head up to the North Shore Two Harbors cabin for four days of sea kayaking, rock climbing, and hiking on the Superior Hiking Trail. Each day will be a different activity, coming back to the cabin in the woods for the evenings. We will be going to some of the best places on the north shore: Rock Climbing at Shovel Point & Carlton Peak, Sea Kayaking inland lakes and along the shore of Lake Superior, and hike to some nearby rivers, waterfalls, and vista on the Superior Hiking Trail. Whether you have never been on these activities or may have experienced some of these places on level 3 trips, this program will be perfect for all levels of experience.



Activity	Date/time
Orientation	April 30 th 2:30-4:30
Trip:	
Leave:	*May 9 th 3:00 pm
Pick up:	May 12 th 8:00 pm (Approximately)

NEW!



NEW!

LOG ROLLING Fee: \$15.00

Minimum Age: 6th grade

The sport of log rolling dates back to the 1800's. Spend an hour with professional log rollers from Key Log Rolling and learn the techniques of balance, core strength, and agility to stay on a log at the YMCA Pool.

Group 1	Group 2
March 11 th 7:00-8:00 pm	March 11 th 8:00-9:00 pm

FISHING ROD CONSTRUCTION

Student Fee: \$75.00

Minimum Age: 6th Grade through Adult

Adult Fee: *Varies Depending upon blank and handle selection*

This program will introduce the student to the art of building a fishing rod. Each student will make their own fishing rod with the help of DLF Custom Fishing Rods of Rochester Minnesota.

DLF is owned and operated by Dan Fryer, a member of the Custom Rod Builders Guild. Dan, a certified professional rod builder will assist each student in building a rod, starting with a blank and adding thread, creating thread art and will be certain that each rod is as individual as the student.

Date	Time	Location
April 1 st - April 4 th April 8 th - April 10 th	2:30-6:00 pm	ELC

Young Explorers Programs for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders

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FEBRUARY 15, 2013

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YE FLOODWATER EXPLORATION WITH THE DNR

Come check out the flooded backwaters of the Mississippi by motorboat. DNR man, Dan Dieterman, will help us collect fish and critters as we learn about the Mississippi ecosystem and the effects of flooding in the area. Pick a group:

Fee: \$ 10

Group 1	Group 2
April 23 rd 4:00-6:30 pm	April 25 th 4:00-6:30 pm

YOUNG EXPLORERS SPIN FISHING

Come and spend a few hours fishing on the Cannon River. Suckers are our target fish, but we'll take anything we can catch!

Fee: \$10

Date	Time
April 16 th	3:30-6:00 pm



5TH GRADE HIGH ROPES COURSE

Spend a day at YMCA Camp Pepin learning the ways of the High Ropes Course. Set your own personal goal and go for it! Everyone sets their own goal, so everyone can participate at their own level.

Fee: \$30

Group 1	Group 2
May 1 st	May 31 st
2:30 pm-7:30 pm	2:30 pm-7:30 pm



YOUNG EXPLORER PADDLE

Learn how to paddle our new play boat kayaks. Bay City will be our playground and classroom.

Fee: \$15

Date	Time
May 18 th	10:00 am -2:00 pm

Adult Programs

ADULT ROCK CLIMB

Fee: \$25

Come and learn the ropes of safe climbing on Barn Bluff. No climbing experience necessary.

Group 1	Group 2
May 14 th	May 30 th
5:00-8:00 pm	5:00-8:00 pm

CORE AND ELECTIVE QUICKLOOK REFERENCE PAGE

EXPLORE THE BLUFF LANDS

Fee: \$20.00

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YOUNG WOMEN IN THE WOODS-

Fee:\$120

HIGH SCHOOL

Minimum Age: 8th Grade

Prerequisite: None

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LOG ROLLING

Fee: \$15.00

Minimum Age: 6th grade

Group 1	Group 2
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PIONEERING I

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SPLUNKING LEVEL II

Fee: \$75.00

Minimum Age: 7th grade

Prerequisite: Spelunking I

Activity	Group 1	Group 2
Orientation	March 12th 2:30 -5:00	March 12th 2:30 -5:00
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Fee: \$120

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FISHING ROD CONSTRUCTION

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AUDUBON SOCIETY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND , COLVILL PARK

The community is invited to learn about the new Audubon Chapter, as well as Bald Eagles and Blue Herons. The Steering and Nominating Committee Members are: Bruce Ause, Suzanne Blue, Jack Nordgaard, and Paul Richards. During this same event you can also meet and visit with Audubon Minnesota's new Red Wing Community Conservation Specialist Tim Schlagenhaft. Tim is a 23 year veteran of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources where he devoted his career to Mississippi River conservation issues. Audubon has long recognized the importance of Mississippi River floodplain forests, from the Vermillion River Bottoms south, for native birds and their habitats.

Minnesota's wintering bald eagles schedule:

Date: Saturday, February 2, 2013

Time: 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: Colvill Park Courtyard, 515 Nymphara Lane, Red Wing, MN

Cost: All activities are open to the public and free of charge

Schedule: 9:30 AM – 10:00 AM Welcome – Refreshments served

Sponsor: Hiawatha Valley Audubon Society

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Speaker: Sharon Stiteler, National Park Ranger

Topic: Blue Heron rookery along the Mississippi River

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Speaker: Scott Mehus, National Eagle Center in Wabasha

Topic: Eagles and the Mississippi River

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch: Sloppy Joe, chips, fruit, vegetable and drink
Everyone welcome (free-will donation)

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Topic: Hiawatha Valley Audubon Society information meeting
Everyone welcome

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Viewing: Eagle viewing at Colvill Park

Led By: Red Wing Eagle Watch volunteers

For more information contact:

Bruce Ause 651-388-4849

Suzanne Blue 651-385-9300

Jack Nordgaard 651-388-7731

Paul Richards 218-766-0246



Firearms Safety

**Registration April 8th at TBMS Lobby 6-7 pm or
preregister through Community Education –must pick up materials on April 8th**
The Cost is \$15.00. Make checks payable to the Red Wing Community Education.

Session 1: April 15th at TBMS 6-9pm

Session 2: April 22nd at TBMS 6-9pm

Session 3: April 29th at TBMS 6-9pm

Session 4: May 4th Field Day at Hallstrom Gun Range all day

Session 5: May 6th at TBMS 6-8pm

If you have any questions, Please **Call Jason Jech at 651-307-5958**

For other Firearm safety classes and information check:

www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/firearms

*This course is a prerequisite for certain ELC programs.

INTRO TO KAYAKING & KAYAK POLO AT THE YMCA

Thursday evenings in February
7:15-9:15 p.m.

Registration and payment at
YMCA are required.



Thank you Red Wing Shoe and the Red Wing area Businesses that Make ELC Possible!

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In Memory of Marilyn Josephons by Pete and Anne Wildenborg
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In Memory of Aaron Freij Tonder by the Tonder Family
In Memory of Shirley and Alvie Johnson by the Johnson Family
In Memory of Mark and Marilyn Ryan by Mareisa and Graham Ryan
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In Memory of Greg Van Natta by Bruce and Kathy Ause
In Memory of Scott Kull by Larry and Debra Kull

In Honor Donations

In Honor of Marion Loglet by Tom and Linda Longlet
In Honor of Bruce Ause by Kay and Mike Christensen

Thank you for your support and another successful Give MN!

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In honor of: _____

**Please make checks payable to:
Environmental Learning Center Endowment Fund**

Thank you for your support!



“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.” **Robert Frost**