

Naturalist Report: Events
Pringle Board Meeting
May 2019

Educational Programs (School Groups):

Grewenow Elementary (May 3)—Did “Plant & Animal Interactions” program for 1st graders, including seed relay races and a hike. Had nice weather, and group enjoyed the program and signed up for the fall.

Vernon Elementary (May 10)—Did a “Birds” program for 1st graders, including bird watching, games, and a hike. Kids were enthusiastic about spotting birds.

Dimensions of Learning (May 21)—Did “Soils” program with 2nd graders in the morning and teacher took them for a nature walk in the afternoon. Kids were more interested in wildlife, but had a good time.

Grant Elementary (May 28)—Had to reschedule this “Orienteering & Geocaching” program from May 16 due to thunderstorms. 5th graders were shown how to use a compass and GPS unit to find caches hidden in the park. Trails were incredibly muddy, and groups struggled with using compasses, but the kids had a good attitude overall.

Educational Programs (Youth Groups):

Junior Girl Scouts: Flowers Badge (May 4)—Took girls on a wildflower hike, dissected flowers, and made seed bombs. This large group was a little scattered, but enthusiastic about the craft and dissection.

Brownie Girl Scouts: Bugs Badge (May 18)—Girls sorted “bugs” into insects vs other critters, learned about our own resident insects, rolled logs, and made monarch life cycle crafts. Another large group due to a registration that wasn’t received on time.

Junior Girl Scouts: Flowers Badge (May 18)—This was a make-up date for a group whose registration was not received due to undelivered mail. A small, but very attentive group of girls did the flowers badge program on a day with excellent weather.

Webelos: Fur, Feathers, and Ferns Badge (May 25)—This group had paid for 10 participants, but only 4 made it. The small group of boys were excellent animal spotters and meticulously made their terrariums.

Educational Programs (Home School):

Home School Science K-2 (May 10)—Did “Properties of Natural Materials” program with 8 students. Students made predictions about densities of objects (sink vs float) and were absorbed in identifying different textures on the trails.

Home School Science 3-5 (May 22)—Rescheduled “Energy Conversions” program, due to construction, with 9 students. Students constructed water wheels on the patio, discussed renewable vs non-renewable energy sources, and made predictions about energy absorption by different materials on this hot day.

Educational Programs (Camps):

Activities (Naturalist Led):

Nature Storytime Hike (May 4)—Just one family (1 parent and 1 kid) showed up on a nice day for this salamander program. We looked at our own salamanders in the nature center and then searched for life out front in the pond with dip nets.

Kenosha County “Free Days” promotion (May 7)—No one came out for the offer of a free Explorer Backpack or GPS unit rental.

Free Plant Exchange (May 11)—No one came out to exchange plants, though a couple people had called expressing interest.

Nature Storytime (May 16)—4 people (2 adults and 2 kids) participated listened to a story and participated in a song and craft.

Kids to Parks Day (May 18)—26 people, many of them from a youth mentoring organization, came to the self-led, outdoor event. Participants used provided scavenger hunt sheets on hikes, matched natural objects to a color wheel, and were given tips on making fairy houses.

Leave No Child Inside: Batty About Bats! (May 31)—During this evening program, 28 parents and kids learned about bat facts vs fiction, participated in simulations of sound waves, located “bat babies” by comparing scent canisters, and searched for bats outside after dusk.

Fundraising (Fall Fun Fest):

Fundraising (5K Walk/Run):

Fundraising (Mother’s Day):

Mother’s Day Brunch & Ephemeral Wildflower Hike (May 12)—32 people came to the three brunch/hike time slots. It was an overcast day, but participants reported enjoying learning about the many blooming wildflowers and some continued hiking after.

Misc.:

1st Friday at the Kenosha Visitors Center (May 3)—Barb Meyocks and Dennis Flath manned the table for PNC and said that several people took flyers for Mother’s Day and other events.

Building Rental (May 15)—A 4H group had their annual meeting and social at the center that evening, reporting roughly 20 participants.