

# Prescott Farm

## Environmental Education Center

Members' Newsletter, Issue #2 - April 2010



Dear Members,

Spring is upon us - birds are singing, amphibians are migrating, and the leaves are coming out! We hope you can all find time in your busy schedules to go outside and explore all the wonders of nature at this time of year.

Things have been very busy here at Prescott Farm - we had one of the best sugaring program seasons ever and are getting ready for a full spring schedule of pre-school programs, walks and workshops, and of course April WildQuest camp. You'll get much more information about those programs in this newsletter - we hope you can join us.

As always, we truly appreciate your support of Prescott Farm and hope to see you here soon!

Cathy, Sarah & Kim  
Prescott Farm Staff

PS. We're collecting stories about people's favorite memories and stories about Prescott Farm - will you share yours? Send it to us at [info@prescottconservancy.org](mailto:info@prescottconservancy.org).

### WildQuest Spring Camp

April 26-30, 2010; 9:00-3:00

WildQuest Winter Camp will enhance your child's ecological awareness and provide fun learning opportunities in a community-minded and non-competitive atmosphere. Camp includes nature activities, animal and plant identification, arts and crafts, quests, and hands-on learning. Most of the day is spent outdoors. Please dress children



### Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center

is a non-profit center that offers environmental education for all ages. The 160-acre historic family farm is designated as an official NH Wildlife Viewing area, and offers visitors hiking on more than three miles of woodland, pond and field trails. Visitors can also explore a three-story historic barn, beautiful heritage and heirloom flower and vegetable gardens, and an old-fashioned maple sugar operation.

Other programs include school vacation camps, field trips and pre-school programs.

#### In This Issue

[WildQuest Spring Camp](#)

[Walks & Workshops](#)

[Pre-school Programs](#)

[30 Fun Spring Activities...](#)

[A Sweet Recipe for You!](#)

[Spring/Summer Volunteer Opportunities](#)

#### Keep In Touch!

[Twitter](#)  
[Facebook](#)  
[Shutterfly](#)  
[Our Blog](#)

appropriately for the weather and time of year. Extended care provides supervised playtime before and after regular camp hours. You can register by the day or for the full week.

Monday, April 26

### **Extreme Explorers: Spring Bushwhack**

Back by popular demand! Prescott Farm has many cool landmarks: the hollow tree, the Octopine, and the old car, among others, but what else lies beyond the trails?

Join us for another off-trail adventure to discover new special places.

Tuesday, April 27

### **Spring on the Farm**

Hooray! Spring has sprung yet again at Prescott Farm. What would spring on the farm have been like 100 years ago? We'll be joined by a very special, wooly guest who will be getting her spring haircut!

Wednesday, April 28

### **Magnificent Migrators Quest**

We all know birds are coming back from their southern winter homes, but what other animals are migrating this time of year? You might be surprised! We'll go on a new quest to find out all about migration and the animals have this strategy.

Thursday, April 29

### **The Hunter & the Hunted**

One fascinating part of any food web is the complex relationship between predators and prey. What adaptations do animals have to being predators or prey? Among other things, we'll play one of our favorite games, "Hungry Forest" to experience what it's like!

Friday, April 30

### **Pond Party**

It's finally spring and the ice has melted on Prescott Farm's pond! Put on your rubber boots and join us for our first ponding expedition of the year. Hopefully we'll see a bunch of pond residents: newts, frogs and aquatic insects, out and about after a long winter.

For more information and to register, please visit our [website](#).

Prescott Farm is a member of the NH Camp Directors' Association and our camps are licensed by the State of NH.

## **Walks & Workshops**

April - June

Join us! From nature walks to making soap, there is something for everyone at Prescott Farm this spring...

### **Handmade Soaps**

Sat., April 10, 2010 - 10:00-1:00; \$40, \$35 (Members of PFEEC)

Join us to learn the art of making natural homemade soaps. Participants will receive complete written instructions and get hands-on experience making two different batches of soap. Each participant will receive some of the finished product! Due to the use of lye, adults & teens only, please.

### **Spring Frog Walk**

Join Our Mailing List!

### **\*Quick Reminder\***

**WildQuest Summer Camp is coming up. [Click here for details!](#)**

### **\*Wish List\***

New and energy efficient refrigerator

### **Photo Quest of the Month!**



**Where can I be found at Prescott Farm?**

If you don't already know, then come and explore the Farm and see if you can find me!

The answer will be included in our next eNewsletter.

**It's Spring and things are in bloom. Can you guess what types of flowers have bloomed at Prescott Farm below?**



*Photo 1*

Sat., April 24, 2010 - 4:30-6:00; \$8, \$6 (Members of PFEEC)  
Nothing says "spring" like the chorus of frogs on a warm evening! We'll take a walk to the pond at Prescott Farm and learn about the amazing natural history of peepers, wood frogs, toads and others which have now emerged from hibernation and are ready for spring. All ages welcome!

### **Night Hike Adventure**

Sat., May 8, 2010 - 8:30-10:00; \$8, \$6 (Members of PFEEC)  
If you've never been on a night hike before, you are missing a sensory experience like no other! Using all five senses, we'll explore Prescott Farm's trails in the dark and participate in some fun activities. Towards the end, we'll also do some stargazing from the field. All ages welcome!

### **Wild Foods Walk**

Sat., June 12, 2010 - 10:00-11:30; \$8, \$6 (Members of PFEEC)  
The New England woods are full of edible and medicinal plants. On this walk we'll learn to identify what plants are safe and even try eating a few of them. Ages 10-Adult.

**Reservations are required. Call 366-5695 to save your spot!**

## **Pre-school Programs**

Tuesdays, April 13 & 20 and May 4, 11, 18, & 25  
10:00-11:30  
For Kids up to and including Age 5

A group for the littlest explorers amongst us! Bring along your favorite grown-up and join us to explore the forests and fields around Prescott Farm. Each week we will take a walk and maybe read a story or play a game on that week's theme - activities perfect for introducing little ones to the joys of the natural world.

### **April 13- Terrific Turtles**

Meet Bucky, our resident three-toed box turtle, and learn all about these fascinating critters that carry their shelters on their backs.

### **April 20- Super Salamanders**

Let's go on a salamander hunt! We'll head out on the trail and look under rocks and logs for these fun critters!

### **May 4- Wonderful, Wiggly Worms**

Did you know that one acre of soil can contain up to a million worms? Come learn how worms help a garden grow.

### **May 11- Insect Investigation**

From butterflies to ants and caterpillars to beetles, come discover the world of insects that live under rocks and logs in the garden and forest.

### **May 18- Spring in the Garden**

What is a plant? What makes plants grow? Come and learn about how plants function and what they do for us. We will be in the garden so wear old clothes you can get muddy.



*Photo 2*



*Photo 3*



*Photo 4*

Answers to our past eNewsletter:  
Photo 1 - Deer, & Photo 2 - Turkey

**We would like to extend a BIG thank you to the following companies that have contributed to our 2010 Camp Scholarship Fund:**



## May 25- Fairy Houses

Come build a fanciful house of natural materials for "forest fairies" or other forest animals!

### FEES:

\$7 per adult/child pair or \$5 for Members of PFEEC

**Reservations are required. Call 366-5695 to save your spot!**

## 30 Fun Spring Activities To Do With Your Kids:

1. Take a walk in the sunshine.
2. Blow bubbles outside.
3. Plant a flower garden.
4. Dance outside in the rain.
5. Ride bikes.
6. Draw with sidewalk chalk.
7. Read a book together outside.
8. Make a simple bird feeder.
9. Play badminton or tennis.
10. Decorate Easter eggs.
11. Participate in a spring clean-up day in your local community.
12. Make a collage of all the things you'd like to do together this season.
13. Make personalized garden stones.
14. Clean and spruce up your outdoor toys.
15. Plant a butterfly garden.

Get more ideas, [click here!](#)

## A Sweet Recipe for You!

### Rhubarb Crisp

The rhubarb is coming up in our gardens already! Here is one of our favorite spring desserts.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup light brown sugar, firmly packed
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup quick cooking rolled oats
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 4 cups sliced rhubarb
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 cup water
- 1 teaspoon vanilla



#### Preparation:

In mixing bowl, combine brown sugar, flour, oats, butter and cinnamon; mix together until crumbly. Press half of the brown sugar and oats mixture into a buttered 8-inch square baking dish. Top with the sliced rhubarb. In a saucepan combine 1 cup granulated sugar, cornstarch, and the 1 cup of water and vanilla.



Cook together until clear, then pour over rhubarb. Top rhubarb with remaining crumb mixture and bake at 350° for 45 to 55 minutes.

For more rhubarb recipes [click here!](#)

## Spring/Summer Volunteer Opportunities

What better way to give back to the community than to volunteer? Prescott Farm has several volunteer options available to suit anyone's needs and restrictions. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the options listed below, please e-mail [info@prescottconservancy.org](mailto:info@prescottconservancy.org) or call (603) 366-5695.

### **Garden Volunteers**

We have a dedicated group of garden volunteers that come on Tuesdays (starting April 20th) during the Spring and Summer months to work on the gardens down near the Farmhouse. They are always looking for help, and if you have a green thumb and don't mind getting a little dirty then this volunteer opportunity is for you!

### **Trail Maintenance**

If you love hard work and are handy with a pair of clippers, our trails need you! The trails get a lot of use throughout the year and get cluttered by branches and other debris.

### **Farmers Market**

We are looking for a volunteer to manage a Prescott Farm tent at the Laconia Farmers Market on Thursday evenings this summer (June-October). The volunteer would be responsible for set-up and break-down of the tent/table and sharing information about Prescott Farm by actively speaking with the public and handing out information about programs, etc. Occasionally there may also be some small sales of flowers or greeting cards.

*A special thank you to all volunteers that helped us throughout sugaring season, cleaning the Barn, and much more over the past 3 months. Your support helped us immensely and we couldn't have done it without you.*

## Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center

928 White Oaks Road, Laconia, NH 03246 · (603) 366-5695 · Fax: (603) 366-5720

[info@prescottconservancy.org](mailto:info@prescottconservancy.org) · [www.prescottconservancy.org](http://www.prescottconservancy.org)