

Prescott Farm



Environmental Education Center

Members' Newsletter, Issue #5 - January 2011



Dear Members,

Snow is falling, animals are hibernating....winter is definitely upon us! Some of us may feel like hibernating, too, but winter is also a great time to get outside! Some of our favorite activities around Prescott Farm are in the winter - snowshoeing, sledding, and animal tracking - and we encourage you to get outside and enjoy the winter in your own favorite ways! Just be sure to bundle up in layers and to wear fleece or wool (NOT COTTON!) as these materials dry more quickly and keep you warm even when wet.

We have a lot planned this winter at Prescott Farm including Full Moon Snowshoe walks, our new Winter Fest event in February, WildQuest Winter Camp and, of course, our Maple Sugar Madness programs in March. You can read all the details about these programs below.

As always, we very much appreciate having you as a Member of Prescott Farm. As we head into our second year with our own membership program, you will be receiving a membership renewal letter when it gets time for you to renew (one year from when you first signed up). We hope you'll continue your support of Prescott Farm by renewing your membership--your support makes all the difference.

Stop by and see us soon,
Cathy, Sarah & Kim

Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center

PFEEC 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.

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Wish List

New and energy
efficient refrigerator

**Photo Quest of the
Month!**



One of our favorite winter
activities at Prescott Farm is
animal tracking. Here's a
mysterious one....can you
figure out "who dunnit?"

Full Moon Snowshoe Walks

Wednesday, January 19 and Friday, February 18; 7:00-8:00pm

\$5 (members) and \$7 (non-members)

Join us for a walk in the snow under the light of winter's full moon...Our environmental educators will guide you on an hour-long walk along on one of PFEEC's trails and encourage you to use your senses to explore PFEEC in a different and special way. You will learn to identify several constellations in the night sky and discuss the habits of several nocturnal animals. You will also learn about the history of Prescott Farm and the surrounding lands.



Hot chocolate, tea and coffee will be served after the walks.

Please wear boots and dress appropriately for the weather. Snowshoes will be provided as needed.

Reservations are required.

Call us at (603) 366-5695 to save your spot!

Snowshoe "Rental"

As a Member, did you know you can use our snowshoes onsite for FREE? Just stop in any day from 9:00-4:00 and someone can help you get fitted with a pair. We have three miles of trails through our forests and fields...what a great way to spend the day!

New "Winter Fest" Event

Saturday, February 19, 2011; 11:00-3:00pm

FREE for members!

\$3 per person for non-members, \$10 families with 2 or more kids. Ages 3 & under are free.

Our Harvest Festival in September was such fun that we decided to do a winter event! Come enjoy Prescott Farm in the wintertime....there will be lots to do, including:

Sleigh Rides
Sledding
Face Painting
Crafts
Bonfire & S' mores
Snowshoeing & Cross-Country
Skiing
(bring your own skis)
Snow Sculpture Contest
Winter Quest
StoryWalk (tm)
Hot Cocoa & more!



All proceeds will support Prescott Farm's environmental education programs.

For more information, please visit our website or call us at (603) 366-5695. We hope to see you there!

Volunteers are needed for this event! Jobs will include greeting visitors, face painting, supervising craft tables, helping visitors get on and off the sleigh rides, serving hot chocolate and food, tending the bonfire, supervising sledding, assisting visitors to put on snowshoes, and parking cars.

*Answer to our
last Photo Quest:*

The picture was of three black walnuts from our tree down by the Farmhouse. Black walnuts are native to New England (unlike the English or Carpathian walnut now found in stores) and have a much more flavorful meat. The green husks also produce a rich brown dye for yarns and fabrics....as long as we can get them before the squirrels!

Update on our Naturalist in the Classroom/CO-SEED Project

Prescott Farm has contracts with four local elementary schools (Gilford, Gilmanton, Belmont and Alton) to do "place-based" environmental education with students and teachers. Over the years we have developed great relationships with the schools and are excited to share with you what we are up to right now!

Gilford

Cathy has been working with Patti Smith's 2nd graders on a maple sugaring project - learning all about the trees and the history of sugaring in advance of sugaring season. Cathy is also looking forward to getting students out on the Nature Trail for animal tracking!

Gilmanton

Gilmanton students are gearing up for "SEADS" days - activity days on Fridays in January. Sarah is planning to take students out snowshoeing in the mornings and will be presenting a "Sheep to Sweater" demonstration for students in the afternoons. Also, the kindergarteners have been learning how to become animal track "detectives" and are excited to get out snowshoeing and tracking!

Belmont

With Berkley gone off to grad school, Cathy has taken on the Belmont contract and is enjoying working with the new teachers and students. She worked with the 4th graders on a natural dyeing project (her first attempt at this!) and it was very successful. She also worked with the 2nd and 4th graders on insect investigations.

Alton

So far this year Sarah has worked with the 6th graders on a watershed project, presented to the 8th graders about NH Paleoindian archaeology, worked with the 2nd graders on a "Sheep to Sweater" project, and did a habitat quest with the 3rd graders. She is now planning a multi-grade project with Linda Wilman (the gifted and talented teacher) to have students create a Quest on the history of downtown Alton.

WildQuest Winter Camp

Monday-Friday, February 28-March 4, 2011; 9:00-3:00 daily

\$175/wk (members); \$225/wk (non-members); \$40/day (members); \$50/day (non-members)

Ages 6-12; Extended care available

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.

Monday, February 28

Extreme Explorers:

Winter Adventure

What exciting discoveries await us in the woods in the winter? We'll strap on our snowshoes and go on an adventure to the far corners of the farm-on these journeys we always discover something new and different!



Tuesday, March 1

Maple Sugar Madness!

It's maple sugaring time!

We will get our sugar

season started by identifying the right trees, tapping a few of them and getting the Sugar House up and running. We'll also be serving a delicious pancake snack in the Sugar House!

Wednesday, March 2

Animals in Winter Quest

What are our animal neighbors up to this time of year? How do animals survive the cold NH winters? Join us for an exciting Quest to learn their secrets of successful survival and build your own winter shelter!

Thursday, March 3

Winter Art & Snow Sculptures

What a beautiful time of year! We'll take inspiration from this icy, sparkly winter world as we create our own winter-themed art projects and outdoor

snow sculptures.

Friday, March 4

Winter Nature Olympics

Join us for our 2nd Annual Winter Nature Olympics day of fun and games! We'll discover old and new winter games from many different cultures, and finish off the afternoon with our medal ceremony, bonfire & s' mores

Please dress children appropriately for the weather and time of year!

You can register for the whole week or individual days.

For more information and to register please call us at (603) 366-5695

or download and send in the [registration form](#).

Winter Volunteer Opportunities

Here at Prescott Farm we are so thankful for the efforts of our amazing volunteers. We couldn't do what we do without them! If you'd like to join the team, please e-mail info@prescottconservancy.org or call us at (603) 366-5695.

Holy Trinity School Winter Field Day

Holy Trinity School will be having a Winter Field Day at Prescott Farm on Tuesday, February 1. Volunteers are needed for this event to supervise a craft activity, help with outdoor games, tend a bonfire, and help kids put on snowshoes.

Winter Fest Volunteers

We need a group of hardy volunteers to help out with our new Winter Fest event on Saturday, February 19. Volunteer jobs will include greeting visitors, face painting, supervising craft tables, helping visitors get on and off the sleigh rides, serving hot chocolate and food, tending the bonfire, supervising sledding, assisting visitors to put on snowshoes, and parking cars.

Sugaring Volunteers

Volunteers are needed throughout the month of March to help with our Maple Sugar Madness programs. We do programs for school children during the week and programs for the public on Saturdays. Volunteer jobs include collecting sap, chopping and hauling firewood, assisting education staff with programs, and monitoring the boiling process in the Sugar House.

Maple Sugar Madness!

Saturdays, March 5-26, 2011; 10:00-11:30, 12:00-1:30, or 2:00-3:30

\$5/adult; \$4/child age 4-12 (members) OR \$8/adult; \$7/child age 4-12 (non-members).

Ages 3 & under are free!

Join us to experience an old-fashioned New England tradition - making maple syrup!

From tapping a tree to tasting delicious maple syrup, you will have hands-on participation in every step of the syrup making process. Our environmental educators will help you to build tree ID skills and learn the parts of a tree and their functions, use measuring tools to find an appropriate tree to tap, use historical and modern tree tapping tools, learn the history of maple sugaring including Native American legends, and discover the math and chemical/physical science in the boiling process.



The program involves a 20 minute walk to our Sugar House-please note that you will be hiking back up hill after the program. Please wear boots and dress appropriately for the weather. Snowshoes will be provided as needed.

**Reservations are required and this program always fills up fast.....
Call 366-5695 now to save your spot!**

We know you like us, how about "liking" us on Facebook?!

We regularly post a lot of info about what's going on at Prescott Farm on our Facebook page. You'll still receive the Member newsletter, of course, but if you're on Facebook, follow the link below and "Like" us there, too. You'll get regular updates on our wildlife sightings, pictures of events, and more!

[Find us on Facebook](#) 

Introducing our new Advisory Council

Starting in November, PFEEC staff has been working with a new Advisory Council made up of 8 great individuals including camp parents, educators, business leaders, a non-profit consultant, and long-time volunteers. The goals of the Advisory Council are to act as a sounding board for new ideas from the Staff and our Board of Directors, to raise the profile of Prescott Farm in the community and to help us with fundraising ideas. We had our first meeting on November 16 and it was hugely successful - we generated so many exciting ideas! Thanks so much to those that are serving on the Advisory Council...we look forward to upcoming meetings and will keep our Members posted on new developments.

Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center

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