



Friends of Freedom Park

200 Monroe St. Prescott, WI 54021

www.freedomparkwi.org 715-262-0104

Supporting the mission of the Great River Road Visitor and Learning Center through membership, volunteer recruitment and fundraising.

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Margaret Smith, Executive Director

Great River Road Visitor and Learning Center

200 Monroe St., Prescott, WI 54021

715-262-0104, www.freedomparkwi.org

Subject: Earth Day Celebrated at Freedom Park

Date: May 2, 2011

Cold weather didn't stop more than 100 people from attending the Earth Day celebration at Freedom Park. Leroy Larson, often featured on the Prairie Home Companion radio show, and the River Town Minstrels provided lively Dixieland and river boat music throughout the event. The regionally renowned Bell Museum of Natural History, located on the campus of the University of MN, brought a variety of furs, bones and other intriguing items for kids and adults to explore and enjoy. The Bell Museum of Natural History, through its new partnership with the Friends of Freedom Park, is sharing a new mussel display featuring mussels of the St. Croix and Mississippi which will be in the Center's main display area through the summer. 3M and SETAC's interactive educational display invited participants to learn more about cleaning pollutants from water, including oil such as was found in the Gulf Oil spill. The Prairie Enthusiasts were on hand with information and colorful posters about grassland birds found in prairies, and Diane Webster led a "prairie seed ball" making activity and children were able to toss dried seed balls down the Park's west slopes to help plant prairie grass seeds in the prairie remnants. Several bird related activities were part of the International Migratory Bird Day celebration taking place at the event.



Caption: Stefanie Geise Bogden of 3M (center) and university students watch as children learn to clean oil out of water. Photo by Margaret Smith



Caption: Jennifer Menken, left, of the Bell Museum of Natural History invites youngsters and Jim Shiely to touch and explore a badger fur. Photo by Margaret Smith



Caption: Jessica Bierbrauer, right, Interpretive Naturalist for the Great River Road Learning Center, helps children learn about Wisconsin bird migration routes. Photo by Margaret Smith



Children and adults were invited to make free log and coconut suet feeders. Photo by Margaret Smith.



Diane Webster makes prairie seed balls. Photo by Margaret Smith



Kyle Amundsen of Kiap-tu-wish Trout Unlimited, gives fly fishing casting lessons. Photo by Margaret Smith



Bob Garber, left, and Dennis Donath, right, had lots of information about what backyard birds need. Photo by Margaret Smith