



2023 Year-End Report

From May through October 2023, the Pigeon River Country Discovery Center had 1,900 visitors to our historic log cabin interpretive center. Here are samples of the activities we held this year in the heart of the Pigeon River Country State Forest (PRC).

Kids

We are all about youth, at the Discovery Center, as they are the next generation stewards of the PRC. Free, fun hands-on activities were on-tap for groups such as Girl and Boy Scouts and school field-trips. Additionally, all of our Community Event workshops were family-friendly.



A local student learned how to draw a bird from DNR's Craig Kasmer.



Vanderbilt students shared their nature inspired artwork in the Discovery Center this season.



Students from Gaylord St. Mary's school explored the Discovery Center.

Workshops

Nine free Community Event workshops were held in 2023 on subjects related to the PRC. Taught by natural resource professionals and others, topics covered raptors, forest fires, birding, climate change, mushrooming, elk and photography. Additionally, we had guest speakers on Ernest Hemingway's PRC experience and recent discoveries of the James Webb Telescope. All workshops were well attended.



NASA ambassador, Rod Cortricht, explained the discoveries of the James Webb Telescope.



A young boy tried on a wing at the "Mich. Raptors" workshop.



Doug Reeves called in a bull during the "Elk in the PRC" workshop.

Learn More

To learn more about the Discovery Center & the Pigeon River Country State Forest, go to pigeonriverdiscoverycenter.org or scan the QR code (at right).

Find us on Facebook - "Pigeon River Country Discovery Center"



Partners

Partnerships are a key ingredient of our success. In 2023 several organizations helped support our workshops and events including: Sierra Club, Detroit Zoological Society, NASA, Mich. Dept. of Natural Resources, Huron Pines, Michigan Hemingway Society and HeadWaters Land Conservancy.



Chris Struble of the Hemingway Society highlighted the famous author's time in the PRC.



Scan code above to view Chris' presentation.



Lots of mushrooms were found during the "Mushroom Foray" hosted by HeadWaters Land Conservancy.



DNR's Mark Monroe compared fire-fighting of the past to the present in a workshop sponsored by the Detroit Zoo.

Blue Lakes Fire

In May we commemorated the one-year anniversary of the Blue Lakes Fire, which burned 2,500 acres, including 900 acres of the PRC. Our sponsor for this all-day event was the Detroit Zoological Society. Their mission is to create meaningful connections between people, animals and the natural world. In the morning participants learned about the history of fires in the PRC and how plants and animals are impacted. The afternoon was spent planting trees in the PRC.



Thank You Volunteers!

Our 50+ volunteers are the life-blood of the Discovery Center. They keep the Center open and pitch in at "work bees" to help maintain the building. Like to join our DC Crew? Fill out the volunteer form on our website to let us know your skills and interests.



Support Us

Help us continue our programs and outreach at the Discovery Center.

To contribute, scan the QR code below or fill out the form and mail with your check to:

PRCA Discovery Center
PO Box 122, Gaylord, MI 49734

Make check out to "PRCA Discovery Center"

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Email _____

Donation \$ _____



What's Planned for 2024?

- Hold a 6-month "Master Naturalist" certification program through Mich. State University Extension.
- Stock the Center's small theater with youth-centered videos related to the PRC.
- Plan more field-based workshops for youth, families and adults.
 - Much more—stay tuned!

Thank you for your support!

Your gift is tax deductible.