

CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 5: Committee meetings at 1:01 p.m.: Human & Spiritual Values, Community Service (Goodwill, Jellum)
Tuesday, June 12: Kiwassee Steak Picnic, Emerson Park. Set-up 4:00, grilling begins 5:00 (Keller)
Thursday, June 14: flag installation for Flag Day (Young)
Tuesday, June 19: Senior Youth committee meets at 11:00 a.m. (Maloney)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Roger Briggs: Jack Higgins' passing leaves a vacancy on the Kiwassee Foundation Board. See Roger if you'd like to serve. This group routinely awards \$20,000 annually. Next week's program will be a report on the Foundation's activity to date.
Brian Goodwill: Please give the invocation at the start of the meeting; sign up on the clipboard circulating. Human and Spiritual Values committee will meet after next week's regular meeting.
Dick Jellum: Community Service will meet after next week's regular meeting, at 1:01 sharp.
Bruce Rayce: Being wheel-chair bound won't stop Bruce from continuing his regular visits to the clubs in Division 19 that he makes as Lieutenant Governor. He can use a chauffeur, usually on Wednesdays and Thursdays; see him to help him out!
Roger Moll: Remember to check in on the computer in the Narthex. Congratulations to our own caterer Pat, who has been approved to receive a Habitat for Humanity House! In light of last week's program with community leaders, Roger asks committees to examine how their current projects address the issues raised by the four panelists. Consider programs and activities to either drop or add, as well as any other youth-focused issues that come up in your discussions.

PROGRAM: Dennis Pilaske, Chippewa Nature Center Executive Director

Representing the Young Children Priority One committee, Roger Moll introduced Dennis, who has been CNC's Executive Director for the past 18 months, after directing the Center's Interpretive Programs for 20 years. The Chippewa Nature Center is in its 52nd year and going strong, thanks to support from many local foundations and countless supporters and volunteers.

CNC's mission is to connect all people with nature through educational, recreational, and cultural experiences. The CNC staff take this mission seriously: even when most of the Center was under water after last June's flood, they used canoes to get around and relocated the Visitors' Center to accommodate the summer camps and programs.

This mission is especially important today, as numerous activities and commitments have decreased kids' connection to nature, resulting in less free, or "unplugged," time. Nature centers in the 21st century, including Chippewa Nature Center, provide opportunities for children, youth, and adults of all ages to spend time outside; restore and maintain natural habitats; and partner with other local organizations, like Little Forks Conservancy, to educate the public about nature.

Dennis shared details about what's new at CNC: the former Whiting Forest 30' observation tower, which overlooks the 40-acre wetlands area and features an ADA accessible platform and ramp; floating classrooms that allow students to get close to the water to study what's in it; and an ADA accessible boat launch to the Chippewa River, a one-hour float to downtown Midland.

CNC collaborate with educators in a variety of ways. Naturalists assist Coleman Community Schools K-7 teachers with the agriculture curriculum, and BC's kindergarten and first grades visit CNC every day and study a comprehensive curriculum that teaches reading, writing, math, science, social studies art, and music through hands-on interaction with a natural environment. A CNC naturalist visits BC's upper elementary classes once a month. The Bullock Creek's Nature Preschool was featured on PBS NewsHour in 2017 (<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/b-bug-preschoolers-make-nature-classroom>). And CNC Nature Day Camp serves over 1000 children and youth ages 4-16 in an eight-week summer program that includes family sessions.

CNC went through a Strategic Planning Process in 2017 that included a tune-up of its mission and goals, and is developing a Master Plan for 2018-20. In the works are improving signage on the nature trails, creating nature play areas near the Visitors' Center for public use, and managing and/or eliminating invasive and exotic plant species that encroach on the native plants.

"Nature isn't just a 'nice thing to have,' it's a NECESSITY," Dennis declared. When asked what we can do to support CNC, he said, "Come on out!" and bring the kids! Volunteer, support the programs financially, and advocate for nature and for greater connections to it. In other words, help the Chippewa Nature Center "make everyone's nature 'everyday.'"

NEXT WEEK: Program: Kiwassee Foundation update Greeter: CarolAnne Guillemette Invocation: Duane Townley
Human and Spiritual Values and Community Service committees will meet after the regular meeting.

REMINDERS: June 12—Kiwassee picnic at Emerson Park. Set up at 4, grill at 5. There will be a brief business meeting.