



The Prairie Science Class

PSC Backtracks-1/23/07 (Our weekly look back at the PSC)

The Week of the: Golden Rod Galls...Eagle Evidence...expeditions...
This was the week we studied Golden Rod galls. (The ball is caused by the larvae of an insect the Golden Rod Midge Fly-imagine that!) We also saw eagles, and took a long expedition. Read on to discover what PSC scientists had to say about these events...

Golden Galls...

Golden Galls are tan when new. Can you imagine yourself as a baby in a green circular room? Well, if not, you probably cannot imagine yourself being a gall. When a larva is a gall, it stays in the stem of a golden rod. Brittney

I like to think of a golden rod gall as a home for the insect. It seems very cozy in there, like the living room or a bedroom. So, my conclusion is that a golden gall is like a little tiny winter cabin, lodge, or summer house for the little guy. Simon

We measured golden galls. Inside each gall is a small larva. It stays in the gall all winter and in spring comes out-that's a long time! Alyssa

We measured the diameter and the length of the gall. I measured six galls and counted 14 galls in my study area. The gall has a round shape and is usually 2 cm long. Callen

Eagle Evidence... (Eagles on and over PWLC!)

The first exciting thing we found today were eagle tracks! Then Austin said, "look there's an eagle in the sky!" Sure enough there was an eagle! I called today the best Walking Seton Watch ever! Aaron

Mr. Mac said, "I have never, ever seen eagle tracks in the snow in my life!" The tracks were sort of weird looking. I had never seen an eagle track in my life either. I would never have seen these tracks if Mr. Ellis hadn't called Mr. Mac to bring us over. April

Expedition to Snowmelt Marsh...

We went on an expedition to Snowmelt Marsh 1-19-07. On the way t here we saw pheasant tracks. I have never seen pheasant tracks before. They were so precise and straight, plus they looked like arrows. Ahna

I was amazed at what Snowmelt looked like. It looked like a mini-desert with snow dunes. I saw mink, deer and pheasant tracks. I pains me to think I may never see them again. Jordyn

If you look around the prairie you can see how it all forms together to make one wonderful piece of art. Jenna

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PSC on line at: http://www.fws.gov/midwest/pwlc/prairie_school.html