

Prairie Smoke

On-Line

**Regional
 Science
 Center**

Spring 2009

www.mnstate.edu/regsci

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- Paul P. Feder Observatory

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Director's Fire



George Davis

It is spring!

As I write this essay in middle May, the Red River Valley has begun to dry out after the spring flooding of 2009. The end of the school year is in sight for valley schools after dealing with make-up days full of modified activities and projects made necessary by the school days lost due to the high water and at-risk sewage treatment plants. Stress has been our byword since the middle of March.

A great place to reduce this stress is a long walk on the tallgrass prairie and riparian woods of the Regional Science Center's Buffalo River Site and adjoining Buffalo River State Park. Early prairie forbes are blooming now, and the forest is thick with the smell of woodland flowers. We invite you once again to spend some time exploring our tallgrass prairie and riparian woods this spring and summer and while on your walk, think about how we might work with you to implement field based instructional activities. Explore the RSC website to see what we offer, then contact us arrange a time to talk about your needs. We can tailor a program to your specific instructional needs. We have been providing science standards-based programs for Minnesota and North Dakota K-12 schools for over 25 years.

Our offices have moved.

This spring finds the offices of the Regional Science Center moving back to Hagen Hall. Ten years ago we moved out of Hagen and since then the building has been completely remodeled. The MSUM Alumni Foundation will be occupying the Centennial House. Our parking spots for visitors and volunteers remain the same as before. To find us in Hagen come to Hagen 107, the Dean of Social and Natural Sciences offices, Deb's office is there.

We need volunteers for summer bird banding.

Again this summer we are participating in the North American bird banding programs called MAPS. We are in need of volunteers who could work for all or a few summer sessions to monitor mist nets and remove captured birds. These birds are quickly measured, banded and released. If you are interested, check the website for dates and then contact us.

Summer Public Programs

Again this summer we are providing programs at the MSUM Planetarium, at the interpretive site as well as in Buffalo River State Park. Please check the Regional Science Center website for dates, times and topics.



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Please share with a friend or colleague.

We are very pleased with the ongoing response to our Friends of the MSUM Regional Science Center program. Please consider a contribution to the Science Center. The Regional Science Center relies on the support of our Friends to provide us with the resources to provide quality programming to over 23,000 persons each year. Below is a list of Science Center Friends:

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