

THE BULLETIN

Newsletter of The Prairie Club

Spring 2026



Join us at Hazelhurst Camp in Harbert, Michigan, on June 13th for our 118th Annual Meeting of Members!

The day will start with a friendly meet and greet for both new and old members at 11 am, providing a great chance to catch up and make new friends with your fellow Prairie Clubbers.



The official meeting will commence at 11:30. Lunch and refreshments will be available for everyone.

Following the meeting, join us to learn more about the impact of microplastics on the Great Lakes region from a member of the Alliance for the Great Lakes.

The next morning, come kayaking with us down the Galien River. Sure to offer scenic views and opportunities to view the local wildlife. We will depart at 11 am.

In order to avoid wasted food, we ask that attendees inform the office and let us know how many plan to attend. Watch your inbox for the official invite, or register early at www.theprairieclub.org/events/2026-annual-meeting

We hope to see you there!

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Please remember **Prairie Club** members who are not a siteholder, immediate family of a siteholder, siteholder's guest, season pass holder, renting a siteholder's cottage, or renting space in a Club-owned building may only use Hazelhurst grounds once a month in June, July, and August.

Remaining 2026 Peak Season Weeks

Did you miss your chance to put in a request for a peak season rental this year? Not to worry, there are still two weeks available at the Family Cottage. Contact the office today to book your week!

The **Windsong side of Family Cottage** is available
June 19 - 26 and **July 10 - 17**

Don't forget all of our facilities are open year-round. It's never too early to start planning your Fall and Winter trips!

Contact the office today to make your reservation!

Family Cottage - Choose between Ravinia or Windsong. Each side of this duplex features a bedroom with a queen bed, a loft with beds to sleep 4, a living room, a gas fireplace, a private screened porch, and a fully equipped kitchen. Linens, towels, and cleaning service are provided year-round.

Per Side

- \$1,320.00 per week in our peak season: June 12th - September 7th
1-week limit!
- \$ 740.00 per week in mid-season: April 24th - June 11th &
September 8th – November 1st
- \$ 461.00 per week in off season: November 2nd – April 23rd
- \$ 164.00 per night in mid-season (2 night minimum)
- \$ 133.00 per night in off season (2 night minimum)

Buena Vista - Each side of this spacious two-story duplex has 3 bedrooms, a living room with a wood-burning fireplace, a fully equipped kitchen, and a shared screened porch. Casa Craig sleeps 8—10 and Sandine's Svensk Stuga sleeps 6—8. Each side can be rented individually or both sides as an exclusive. Linens, towels, and cleaning service are provided year-round.

Exclusive Rental

Sleeps 14 - 18 people

- \$ 2092.00 per week in our peak season: June 12th - September 7th
1-week limit!
- \$ 1034.00 per week in mid-season: April 24th - June 11th & September 8th – November 1st
- \$ 627.00 per week in off season: November 2nd – April 23rd
- \$ 262.00 per night in mid-season (2 night minimum)
- \$ 210.00 per night in off season (2 night minimum)

Per Side

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1-week limit!
- \$ 1034.00 per week in mid-season: April 24th - June 11th & September 8th – November 1st
- \$ 627.00 per week in off season: November 2nd – April 23rd
- \$ 262.00 per night in mid-season (2 night minimum)
- \$ 210.00 per night in off season (2 night minimum)

We're Looking for Volunteers!

Interested in getting more involved? A committee chair positions at Hazelhurst is open, and we welcome volunteers to step forward.

Hazelhurst Beach - If you would like more information about the role or are interested in volunteering, please email Dan Gapen at gapenc@gmail.com

Farmhouse - 7 private bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, a large fully-equipped kitchen which includes 2 refrigerators, 2 gas stoves and ovens, 2 microwaves, a dishwasher, 2 dining rooms, and a large common area. Available for Exclusives and individual room rentals.

Linens and towels are provided.

Farmhouse 2026 Rates

	Capacity	Peak Season	Mid-Season	Off Season	
		June 12 – Sep. 7	Apr. 24 – June 11; Sep. 8 – Nov. 1	Nov. 2 – Apr. 23	
<input type="checkbox"/> Exclusive	14 -18	\$4474	\$3695	\$2676	Week
		\$1432	\$1285	\$873	Weekend
		\$756	\$681	\$511	Night
First Floor					
<input type="checkbox"/> Farmhouse Suite (1 Queen/1 Twin)	3	\$836	\$704	\$526	Week
		\$273	\$250	\$224	Weekend
		\$148	\$136	\$122	Night
Second Floor					
<input type="checkbox"/> Room #1 (1 Queen/2 Twin)	4	\$684	\$528	\$374	Week
		\$226	\$192	\$163	Weekend
		\$123	\$106	\$93	Night
<input type="checkbox"/> Room #2 (2 Twins)	2	\$553	\$447	\$369	Week
		\$188	\$163	\$161	Weekend
		\$103	\$93	\$91	Night
<input type="checkbox"/> Room #3 (1 Queen)	2	\$635	\$521	\$369	Week
		\$212	\$190	\$161	Weekend
		\$116	\$105	\$91	Night
<input type="checkbox"/> Room #4 (3 Twin)	3	\$594	\$522	\$369	Week
		\$201	\$188	\$161	Weekend
		\$111	\$103	\$91	Night
<input type="checkbox"/> Room #5 (1 Queen)	2	\$594	\$522	\$369	Week
		\$201	\$188	\$161	Weekend
		\$111	\$103	\$91	Night
<input type="checkbox"/> Room #6 (2 Twin)	2	\$576	\$522	\$369	Week
		\$194	\$188	\$161	Weekend
		\$107	\$103	\$91	Night

Spring Grove - Just 60 miles north of Chicago, Spring Grove Lodge has seven bedrooms, each sleeping 4 - 5 people. Spring Grove lodge has a large fully equipped kitchen. Each of the common areas have a wood burning fireplace and beautiful views of the woods and pond. Perfect for a group get-a-way near home!

Exclusive Lodge Overnight Rates

Check in 12 pm

Check out

11am

- \$394 (1 night stay)
- \$558 (2 night stay)
- \$677 (3 night stay)

Offseason special November through March

- \$449 (2 night stay)

Exclusive Lodge Day Rates

Check in 9am Check out 5pm

- \$114 (Monday - Friday)
- \$230 (Saturday - Sunday)

Single Room Rates

- \$52 per night



**Join The Prairie Club on
hikes, kayaking, and other
activities!**

**Be sure to follow the Prairie
Club on [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com)**

**Search for "Prairie Club of
Chicagoland Activities Group"**

New Applicants for Membership

The following candidates have applied for membership since our last Bulletin was published. If you know of any reason why an applicant should not be admitted to the Club, please write to the Membership Committee, via the Club office address: 12 E. Willow St., Unit A, Lombard, IL 60148

Jenna Lutter Evans

Sunderland, MA 01375

Sponsors: Susanne Busenburg, Lisa Pratt

Interviewed by: Terese Clancy

The Prairie Club Membership Committee

Review of 2023 and 2024 Annual Report, as well as 2025 and 2026 updates

In 2023, the Membership Committee interviewed and approved 18 new members. At the end of 2023, the Prairie Club had 889 members.

Policy Revisions:

The Committee implemented the following policy changes:

- A sponsor must be an active Prairie Club member for two years before being a sponsor.
- A prospective PC member must complete all phases of application, and be approved by the PC board, before enjoying any benefits of membership.

The membership committee also began the process of bringing the application and sponsor forms into this century by providing an online application and sponsor form.

In 2024, the Membership Committee approved 26 new members, bringing the total membership to 902 by year-end.

Highlights:

The Prairie Club saw an unprecedented number of membership applications.

Season Pass Availability: For the first time, Camp Hazelhurst Season Passes were fully subscribed, with a waiting list in place.

Digital Transformation: Membership and sponsor forms transitioned online, streamlining the application process.

Policy Revisions:

The Committee implemented the following policy change:

- Sponsorship Limits: An active member in good standing for at least two years may sponsor up to two candidates for Active Membership and two for Student Membership per calendar year.

In 2025, the membership committee approved 14 new members, with the total membership at 897 at year end.

In 2025 and early 2026, the Membership Committee began discussions in response to a significant and unprecedented increase in membership applications and the challenges that accompanied this growth—particularly regarding misunderstanding of membership privileges, misuse of sponsorship privileges, and limited access to Camp Hazelhurst due to capacity constraints. As a result, the committee recommended implementing a temporary pause on new membership applications, which the Board subsequently approved on October 2025.

During this pause, the membership-related sections of the website were carefully reviewed and updated. In addition, the application form, Sponsor Guide, and Sponsor Forms were revised. These changes were made with the goal of reinforcing the vital role that sponsors play in shaping the future of the Prairie Club.

Policy Revisions:

The Committee implemented the following policy change:

- The committee increased the time a sponsor must know their prospective member from 6 months to 1 year.

The Prairie Club will be open again for applications beginning May 7, 2026.

The Prairie Club Membership Committee

Review of 2023 and 2024 Annual Report, as well as 2025 and 2026 updates (continued)

The key to a successful Application for Membership is how well the Sponsor has known the Applicant and is able to earnestly support the applicant for membership. We encourage our current members to help us maintain the values and goals of membership in the Prairie Club, and to continue to sponsor candidates that will make The Prairie Club a stronger better place for future generations. Please remember that when you sign the sponsor's form you are not only attesting that you have known this individual for a minimum of one year, you are also personally vouching for the character and conduct of the applicant. As a sponsor, it is your responsibility to act as a guide for a potential member of the Prairie Club, including Club history, mission, ideals, rules and regulations, as well as privileges. The role of the Membership Committee is to ensure that the prospective member has been oriented to the club before completing the application process.

The Prairie Club website has been redesigned to make it more user friendly when accessing information and forms regarding the membership process. Please be aware of all current sponsorship rules and guidelines, including recent policy revisions related to the sponsorship of new members. Providing false or misleading information, or misusing sponsorship rules, guidelines, or policies, will result in the revocation of sponsorship privileges and may be reported to the Prairie Club Board.

Our Departed Members and Friends

We have received news of the passing of the following members since the last edition of our Bulletin. Please remember them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Bernie Dahl passed away on **January 10, 2026**

Carolyn Edison passed away on **April 15, 2026**

Donations

Thank you for the continued support of our Members. **Please remember that donations to the Prairie Club are not tax deductible.**

Accompanying her application, **Jenna Evans** thoughtfully included a donation to the Club.

A generous donation was made by **Phillip & Ann Miller** to be used at Hazelhurst.

In memory of Marsha Foote, **Jacqueline Townsend** made a open-hearted donation to Hazelhurst.

To help keep the piano in good tune, **James Downey** kindly donated to Hazelhurst.

The members below graciously made donations along with their yearly dues:

Mary Ann Aubrey

Joan Miller Brown

Ann Cahill

Brendan Cahill

Lea Cahill

Thomas Cahill

Sally Cook

Connie Breach-Cranford

Robert Easley

Douglas Elrick

Ellen R. Elrick

Timothy Farley

Robert Foote

Courtney Ford

Chris Ford

Ian Ford

Marcy Ford

Maureen Gilligan

Deirdre Gilligan

Nancy Gray

Jaime Haas

Jane Huth

Adrian Johns

Deborah Kinney

William Kinney

S. Michael Kozubek

Gwendolyn Lyford

Dan Miller

Linda Mullikin

Joanne Nadelhoffer

Laura Nadelhoffer-Seizovic

Mary Roberts

Vladimir Seizovic

Mary Swanton

Linda Taylor

Tom Taylor

Amy Urbin

John Urbin

James White

Mary White

Alison White

C. Randall Williams

Dianne Williams

William Worden

A Great Summer Job!

The Prairie Club seeks a Waterfront Director for 2026 for its beautiful Lake Michigan beach at Camp Hazelhurst, in Harbert, MI.

Compensation: \$22/hr

Hours: Negotiable—Up to 400 hours over 10 straight weeks from June to August, 2026. Starting & ending dates are negotiable.

Duties: Watch over swimmers and other beach users to promote safety and compliance with beach rules. Respond appropriately to emergency situations. Teach swimming to small groups. Manage equipment & supplies.

Requirements:

- High School graduate or equivalent
- Red Cross (or equivalent) Lifeguard Certificate, First Aid, CPR & AED
- Must be capable of working with a large group of people of all ages.

Additional information: <https://www.theprairieclub.org/hazelhurst/>

Experience preferred, especially on Lake Michigan beaches. Beachgoers are friendly, family-oriented club members and guests.

We provide additional orientation / training for Lake Michigan conditions.

Job description is at <https://www.theprairieclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Job-Description-Hazelhurst-Waterfront-Director-2024.pdf>

Send applications or inquiries to prairieclub@sbcglobal.net

**Reminder for
Hazelhurst Siteholders**

New leases were emailed on Feb. 10th
Be sure to return yours by May 1st!

**Reminder for
Spring Grove Siteholders**

Final site payments are due by April 30th

Prairie Club Officers 2026

President	Mike Maloney
1st Vice President	Sarah Craig Pratt
2nd Vice President	Hope Little
Treasurer	Mark Sever
Recording Secretary	Wendy Lyford
Hazelhurst Camp Vice President	Dan Gapen
Spring Grove Camp Vice President	Erin Kiehm

Standing Committees 2026

Audit	Charles Manthey
Elections	Terry Riban
Finance	Charles Manthey
Historical	OPEN
Membership	Jo Burda Smith
Nominating	Rebecca Johnson

Activity Committees 2026

Activities/Walkers	Terry Riban
Annual Meeting	Hope Little
Buena Vista	Judy Wagner
Conservation	Randall Lutter
Family Cottage	Terri Breach, Barb White
Farm House	Deb McGrath, Barbara Wittersheim
Promotional	Barb Burton-Halfpenny
Publications	Natalie Brennan
Hazelhurst	Dan Gapen
Spring Grove	Erin Kiehm, Brian Reed
Spring Grove Lodge	Mickey Hanson
Website	Natalie Brennan

Mission Statement:

The Prairie Club, founded in 1908, encourages the love of nature and participation in outdoor recreation by providing facilities and activities that allow members and guests the opportunity to experience the great outdoors. We foster a sense of community, the appreciation of the beauty of nature, and importance of environmental conservation through the maintenance and programs of our two permanent camps, Hazelhurst and Spring Grove.

The Prairie Club

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E-mail: office@theprairieclub.org

Website: www.theprairieclub.org

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