

Press Release
For Immediate Release

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**June First Tuesday Lecture
“Prairie Habitat Restoration at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute (PCCI)”**

Battle Creek, MI, May 21, 2010. On June 1, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. Kingman Museum welcomes Jennifer Howell for “Prairie Habitat Restoration at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute (PCCI).” The lecture is Free to the public and is held in the Community Planetarium. The lecture will last approximate 45 minutes and is followed by a question answer period. Local teachers receive professional development credit for attending.

Installations of new exhibitions on Kingman Museum’s mezzanine level are scheduled for completion in August 2010. Inspiration for all First Tuesday lectures in 2010 comes from the new exhibit themes. Several of the new exhibits feature native Michigan landscapes, these exhibits serve as inspiration for Kingman’s June lecture. This lecture will tell the story of historic loss of native landscapes and the process of restoring them with a focus on the restored prairie at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute in Hastings, Michigan.

Join, Jen Howell, Land Steward of Pierce Cedar Creek Institute (PCCI) as she describes the history of Michigan's prairie habitats and the restoration activities being conducted at, PCCI, in an effort to convert over 70 acres of fallow agricultural fields into ecologically diverse prairie habitat. Jen will be reviewing the history of Michigan's prairies, the benefits of re-introducing the historical fire regime, and the rare plant and wildlife species associated with Michigan's diminishing prairie habitat.

Jen has worked as the Land Steward of Pierce Cedar Creek Institute for the past seven years where she enjoys the variety of tasks she oversees (prescribed burns on day, boardwalk construction the next, and Green Cleaning workshops the day after that!). Jen graduated with a Bachelor’s of Science in Biology from Calvin College and a Master’s of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife from MSU. She lives in Hastings with her science-teacher husband and nature-exploring children whose mottos are to leave no stone unturned!

Kingman Museum is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to provide lifelong learning opportunities in natural history, the universe, and world cultures for all ages for all time. Winter Hours at Kingman Museum are 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday; 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday; and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday. Planetarium shows are Fridays at 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 1:15, 2:15, 3:15, and 4:15 p.m. Museum admission is \$18.00 for a family (up to 6 individuals), \$6.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors and veterans, \$4.00 for students, and free for children under 2 year of age. General admission includes a planetarium show during regularly scheduled planetarium hours. For adult Kingman Museum members, the planetarium fee is \$1. Kingman Museum is located at 175 Limit Street in Battle Creek. More information can be found on its website www.kingmanmuseum.org or by calling 269-965-5117.