



NEWS RELEASE

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Dairyland's Myrick Hixon EcoPark exhibit will be dedicated Saturday

LA CROSSE, WI—An exhibit sponsored by Dairyland Power Cooperative, featuring Peregrine falcons, will be dedicated at the Myrick Hixon EcoPark's "Raptor Day" event on Saturday, March 13. The dedication begins at 10 a.m. at the EcoPark with opening comments by John Thiel, Senior Environmental Biologist at Dairyland, and Bob Anderson, founder of the nonprofit Raptor Resource Project.

Dairyland donated \$10,000 to the EcoPark for the development of an educational kiosk about raptors, specifically the Peregrine falcon. Dairyland's Peregrine Falcon Restoration Program has been instrumental in helping bring back the once-endangered species to the Upper Mississippi River Valley.

"The contribution to the EcoPark provided the opportunity to share an innovative and ultimately very successful stewardship story with the community. The wonderful environmental education facility at the new Myrick Hixon EcoPark is the perfect place to feature the history of raptors in our region," said Thiel.

Visitors can meet a live Peregrine falcon, and attend an artist's reception at 11:30. Beginning at 12:30, attendees will hear from Coulee Region Rehabilitators, who are bringing other birds of prey to the event.

About the Dairyland falcon program and exhibit

Since 1997, 70 Peregrine falcon chicks have fledged from Dairyland's Alma and Genoa, Wis., power plant nesting sites. "Bird Cams" are installed at each nesting site to allow a close-up view of the raptors via Dairyland's website, www.dairynet.com. Now is a great time to visit the Bird Cam, as the falcons are beginning to return for this year's nesting season.

"We were very fortunate to have two great regional artisans share their skills to help create our exhibit. Stone mason John Dingley's work building the cliff dwelling is exceptional. Wildlife artist Jonathan Wilde painted a watercolor depicting Peregrines in their native bluff habitat," said Thiel.

The exhibit vegetation was sourced from the Alma area, and the mounted Peregrine (provided courtesy of the Raptor Resource Project) is a power plant falcon from Cassville. Bob Anderson of the Raptor Resource Project also designed a falcon nest box to illustrate what a power plant nest box looks like. An interactive computer display will help educate visitors about Peregrine falcons and Dairyland.

With headquarters in La Crosse, Wis., Dairyland provides wholesale electricity to 25 member distribution cooperatives and 16 municipal utilities in four states (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois). Dairyland's generation resources include coal, natural gas, hydro, wind, landfill gas and animal waste. For more information on Dairyland or the Peregrine falcon program, please visit www.dairynet.com.

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