Plan to join us in the spring for the 5th annual Naturally Illinois Expo, hosted by the Prairie Research Institute. The Expo showcases the scientific research and activities of the University of Illinois' Prairie Research Institute, which unites the five state scientific surveys—the Illinois Natural History Survey, the Illinois State Archaeological Survey, the Illinois State Geological Survey, the Illinois State Water Survey, and the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center.

The Expo will be held at the Natural Resources Building, 607-615 East Peabody Drive, Champaign, Illinois. The Expo is free and open to the public, and it is a great school field trip destination.

You will find exhibits, demonstrations, and hands-on activities of interest to the public, teachers, and students of all levels, especially those who may be interested in science-related careers.

Exhibits include:
• Plastics to Oil
• Floodplain Simulation
• Bugging the Dinosaurs: 3D Reconstruction of Fossil Insects
• Fun with Weather
• Animal Bones of Illinois
• Kids’ Fossil Dig
• Fun with Gases, Liquids, and Solids!
• and much more!

For more information please check our web site at http://prairie.illinois.edu/expo/, or contact Eric Plankell at eplankel@illinois.edu or (217) 265-8029. Registration for school/group field trips will begin on January 14, 2013. Unfortunately, due to space limitations and to ensure a good experience for students, we will need to limit the school attendance on Friday, March 8, to 1500 students and teachers. Please contact us early in the registration period if you are interested in bringing your students to the Expo that day. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. We will also have bus scholarships for those schools that can demonstrate a need (details forthcoming). Please consider attending on Saturday, if possible, when it will be less crowded.

In addition, the 5th annual Earth, Wind, & Fire 5K Run and 2.5K Walk will kick off Saturday morning. Please check http://www.facebook.com/pages/Earth-Wind-Fire-5K-Run-and-25K-Walk/275785825679 for up-to-date information.