

May 4, 2005

Renovation begins for Sunset Lodge at CWES

One of Central Wisconsin's landmark facilities in outdoor education will receive a major facelift beginning this month. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES) will begin renovation of its Sunset Lodge facility overlooking Sunset Lake in eastern Portage County.

Plans for the renovation will be revealed at a groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Friday, May 20, at CWES, located at 10186 County Road MM, four miles north of Nelsonville. The public is invited to attend the ceremony. Local history buffs who are interested in taking photographs of the lodge before the renovation begins should make arrangements with Scott Johnson, CWES director, before May 13. Johnson can be reached at 715-824-2428, ext. 2005. Demolition of some portions of the lodge will begin on Monday, May 16.

Sunset Lodge was originally constructed in 1947 by the Boy Scouts as a major improvement to its "Camp Chickagami" facility. Today CWES facilities include Sunset Lodge plus 16 other buildings and 300 acres of surrounding property, and it continues to serve the Scouts along with thousands of other youths from throughout the state.

Since 1975 CWES has been an integral part of UWSP's College of Natural Resources program and is staffed with professional educators in natural resources and environmental education. Building on its historical link to scouting, the facility's mission is to foster in adults and youth the appreciation, understanding, skill development, and motivation needed to encourage a sustainable balance between environment, economy, and community.