



FROM THE TRAILS

OF THE PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

JANUARY - MARCH 2011

NATURE EXPLORERS CAMP

Jump Into Spring, March 21-25



Ages 6-12

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

\$150

Save \$10 if
registered by 2/21

Hop into a world of discovery! We'll investigate the mysteries of migration and the first signs of green. The chorus frogs may even be calling. There will be magic spots, nature hikes and an exciting field trip. Finally, to celebrate our discoveries we'll have a fun family evening potluck.

WILDERNESS NATURE CAMP

Exploring + magic spots + new friends + creeking + games + field trips + crafts = a great week! It's not too early to think about summer camps. June and July will hold six great weeks of outdoor fun for youth ages 6-12.

Are you a little older? The Junior Counselor program offers leadership training and in-service opportunities.

Brochures available by February 1st.

NATURE CENTER PRESCHOOL

Where Kids Explore

Enrollment begins February 1st for 2011-2012



Open House:
Tuesday, January 18
10-11 a.m. or 1-2 p.m.
or by appointment

Tues/Thurs Sessions
9-11:30 a.m., 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Wed/Fri Session
9-11:30 a.m.

Pre-K: Mon/Wed/Fri
9-11:30 a.m., 12:30-3 p.m.

BECKY WITULSKI RETIRES

After 24 years of service, Becky retired on December 23rd. Becky began to work at the Nature Center in 1986 as a part time teacher/naturalist. She became the Visitor's Services Coordinator, a full time position, in August, 2005, and was responsible for the scheduling of staff and most programs, small animal care and the gift shop. Becky was coordinator of scout programs, hayracks and Spooktacular for many years. Besides having a phenomenal institutional memory, she

acted as the Nature Center's "Mommy, where is it?", "Mrs. Fix-it" and "Supreme Shopper." Her huge heart and ready kindness will be missed.



SANDHILL CRANE TRIP

March 21, Monday, Noon-11:00 p.m.

\$70/person, register by February 20

Experience one of our planet's most spectacular wildlife migrations! Visit the Nebraska Nature and Visitor Center, travel rural roads to see the cranes foraging and dancing in the fields, then watch and listen to them return to the Platte River at sunset from a Rowe Sanctuary blind. The fee includes van transportation, dinner and blind costs. Must have the ability to walk uneven trails in low light with a guide. Registration and payment required by February 20 for blind reservations.

PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

Admission: Free

Location: 3201 S. Coddington (west end of
Pioneers Park) Lincoln, NE 68522

Hours: Monday - Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: Noon - 5:00 p.m.

Phone: (402) 441-7895

E-mail: nfurman@lincoln.ne.gov

Website: parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter

Mailing Address: 2740 A Street, Lincoln, NE 68502

PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

GEOLOGY DAY

February 13, Sunday 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Chet Ager Building Donation

Learn about fossils, minerals, rocks, and gemstones through displays and demonstrations by members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club. They can also help you identify your own specimens during this free drop-in program.

FULL MOON RAMBLE

February 18, Saturday 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Prairie Building \$8/person, \$20/family

We'll walk in the moonlight, listen for nocturnal animals, tell stories, and have a lunar snack. *Register by February 16th.*

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT ACTIVITY DAY

February 19, Saturday 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Chet Ager Building \$5 suggested donation

Bundle up and join us at the Pioneers Park Nature Center for a 9:00 a.m. winter bird walk. Then meet with other birders at the Chet Ager Building for hot mulled cider and a snack as we count the visitors to our bird garden. That data will be submitted to the biologists at the Cornell University Bird Lab for the 14th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count. The Wild Bird Habitat Stores will be on hand to discuss how you can attract birds to your backyard and participate in GBBC's fun, four day free bird count. No registration is necessary for this drop-in program but please call 441-7895 if you plan to attend the bird walk.

BEGINNING ASTRONOMY

April 7 & 8, Thursday & Friday 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Hyde Memorial Observatory \$10/person, \$15/family
Call 441-8708 for more information.

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

PRESCHOOL NATURE PLAY

NEW series for preschoolers with an adult

Every 3rd Saturday 10:00-11:30 a.m. \$7/child

January 15: Snow

February 19: Birds in Winter

March 19: Animals with Two Lives

Prairie Building Goldenrod Classroom

Explore the wonders of nature with your little one through hikes, activities, and stories. Dress for the weather, as we will be spending a portion of each day outside. A snack will be provided. *Register by the Wednesday before each class.*

WOODPECKER PIZZA PARTY

March 5, Saturday Grades K-2 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Chet Ager Building \$8/child

It's going to be a rap-tapping good party! Join in the fun discovering the special things that allow woodpeckers to drum out a beat, dig holes in trees and slurp yummy insects from bark. We'll go for a walk, looking and listening for these beautiful birds and then make a suet pizza to attract them to your backyard. *Register by March 2.*

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH (con)

MOMMY AND ME: SPRING SONG

Eight Mondays beginning March 28

Ages 2 1/2 - 3 1/2 with accompanying adult

10:00-11:30 a.m. \$60/8 week session

Explore the marvels of spring with your little one through hikes, games, and stories. Please dress for the weather as will be spending a portion of each class outside. A snack will be provided. Prairie Building Goldenrod Classroom.

CAMP DISCOVERY

Registration begins March 1st

Monday-Thursday

Ages 3-6

9:00-11:30 a.m.

\$60/child/session

Prairie Building Goldenrod Classroom

Outdoor exploration, crafts, puppets, games, snacks

June 6-9: Green and Growing

June 13-16: Goin' on a Nature Hunt

June 20-23: Scat, Tracks and Hidey Holes

July 11-14: Scat Tracks and Hidey Holes

July 18-21: Water All Around

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Owls, turtles, snakes and the great outdoors are eager to make your child's birthday a special one. An hour nature program, including a hike and indoor animal time, is followed by 45 minutes in the building for your birthday activities. We provide the guide, space and a birthday favor for each child, you provide refreshments. \$75 for 10 children, \$7 each additional child, 15 maximum. Call 441-7895 for reservations at least two weeks in advance.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

PRIMITIVE PINE NEEDLE BASKETS

January 29, Saturday

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Prairie Building

\$10/person

Learn how to make coil baskets. Each person will begin a pine needle basket to finish at home. Recommended for people 14 and older. *Register by January 26.*

POETRY ON THE PRAIRIE

January 30, Sunday

2:00-3:30 p.m.

Prairie Building

\$5 suggested donation

Think of a hot drink in a warm room with a beautiful view of prairie and pond. Now think about sharing nature poetry, your own, a favorite of yours by another poet, or just listening. Join us! *No registration necessary.*

STORIES OF DEEP LANDSCAPE:

THE WRITINGS OF BARRY LOPEZ

February 20, Sunday

2:00-3:30 p.m.

Prairie Building

\$5 suggested donation

Teacher/naturalist Betty Orr welcomes the opportunity to share her long-lived appreciation of the writings of Barry Lopez, who is often described as a "nature" writer, but perhaps better understood as a true "naturalist" - one who writes to dispel the illusion of separation between culture and landscape. Enjoy a hot beverage as you delve into his vision. *No registration necessary.*

NOTE FROM NANCY

Awesome! Amazing!

These two words are often over-used. But when I think of PPNC and all that it is and has to offer, I can't think of other words that better describe it. There is so much beauty in the prairie, woodlands and around the ponds. There is laughter coming from the preschool classrooms. Dedicated staff love to share their enthusiasm for the natural world with students and visitors. Volunteers can't wait to get their hands in the dirt. Just driving past the bison or elk is rewarding



and the winter sunsets give you chills down your spine. We have been fortunate that families can continue to enjoy the interpretive buildings, trails and exhibit animals free of charge.



Your participation in our new sponsorship program will continue to make the Nature Center an amazing place. You can help by adopting an acre, donating to a scholarship fund, buying a brick to Heritage School or paving a path with an engraved stone. There are also naming opportunities for gardens, trails and buildings. More information can be found at lincolnparks.org

Every day as I drive in I think this is truly an awesome place to work. Hope to see you on the trails.



The mission of the Pioneers Park Nature Center is to interpret the natural history of Nebraska and the Central Great Plains; to promote the enjoyment, appreciation and awareness of our natural environment; to practice and foster a conservation ethic; and to provide a sanctuary for wildlife and a peaceful retreat for people.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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U.S. Postage Paid
Lincoln, NE
Permit No. 135

Pioneers Park Nature Center
Lincoln Parks & Recreation
2740 "A" Street
Lincoln, NE 68502