



FROM THE TRAILS

OF THE PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2014

WILD FALL FESTIVAL



Fairy house/fort building

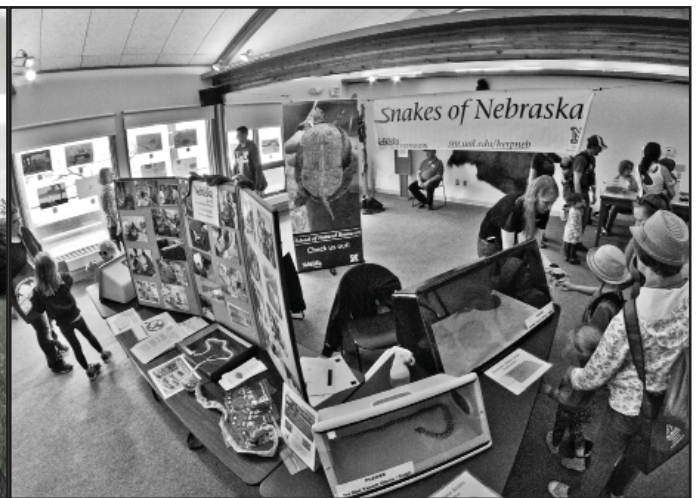
Friday, October 17th we will be hosting a free family event full of hands-on learning activities, wildlife illustration, photography, geocaching, turtles of Nebraska, guided nature walks, story telling, and a lively campfire. Everyone is encouraged to take part in the fun! There will be food available for purchase from vendors and hayrack rides for \$3 a person.

Tell everyone you know, this is a great way to celebrate the season! Come early for the activity stations, stay late for an evening under the stars.

Hands-on Activities 4-6:30 pm
Indoor Animal Displays 4-7 pm
Hayrack Rides 4-8 pm
Campfire Activities 6-8 pm



Verley Trail heading east from Coyote Point



Live animal display in auditorium

IRENE ALEXANDER WILL BE MISSED

If you ever came to a bird banding presentation, you met Irene. She carefully handled the birds, identifying them, taking measurements, checking their sex and health, and then banding them for education and research. She was passionate about the prairie, herb garden and the birds. For 25 years she was a dedicated educator who taught children and adults alike. Her warm smile and gooseberry pies will truly be missed. However, the Irene and George Alexander Bird Garden will continue to welcome birds, bird watchers and show case bird-loving plants.

PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

Admission: Donation \$3/person \$5/family \$10/group

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: naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov

Website: parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter

Mailing Address: 2740 A Street, Lincoln, NE 68502

FULL-TIME STAFF

Coordinator:

Andrea Faas

Naturalist:

TBA in October

Land Manager:

Aaron Druery

Preschool Director:

Sueann Ahrens

PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

Grandparent's Nature Fun Day

Sunday, Sept 7

2:00-4:00 pm

Prairie Building

\$5/person

Bring the family and celebrate Grandparent's Day by spending a fun-filled afternoon at the Nature Center doing a scavenger hunt, meeting a live animal and exploring some local artifacts. Register by Sept 4.

BACKYARD COMPOSTING

Saturdays, Sept 27 and Oct 11

10:00 am

Composting Demonstration Area

Free

Learn how to compost in your back yard, UNL Extension and the City Recycling Office will host a workshop at the Nature Center's backyard composting demonstration area. Two lucky participants will receive a free soil thermometer and everyone gets a voucher for a free compost bin.

WILD FALL FESTIVAL

Friday, Oct 17

4:00-8:00 pm

Entire Nature Center

FREE

Celebrate fall with this free family friendly event! Explore hands-on activities including nature photography, journaling, wildlife sketching, geocaching and live animals, go on a guided nature walk, enjoy a campfire and hayrack rides are \$3/person for a tour through the park. Food will be available for purchase.

PRAIRIE RUN

Saturday, Nov 1

9:00 am

By the School House

\$10/kids 1 mile, \$20/adult 5K

Want to experience the Nature Center in a whole new way? We are hosting our second trail run. One mile and a 5 K trails have been mowed through our northern and western sections of prairie to make room for this event. Everyone who registers by October 16th will get a special t-shirt for the event. Income generated from the event will support our land management program of restoring and maintaining our prairie and the animals that live there. Sign up on www.getmeregistered.com

POP-UP CARD MAKING CLASS

Saturday, Nov 8

10:00 am-Noon

Prairie Building

\$10/person

Learn how to make extra special cards for fun or the holidays. Supplies will be provided, you bring the creativity and when the class is done you will have something unique to share. Participants ages 8 and up are welcome to attend. Register by November 4.

NIGHT HIKE

Friday, Nov 14

7:00-8:30 pm

Prairie Building

\$7/person

Who whooo's out there? Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Nature Center on a moonlit walk. We will look and listen for owls and other animals of the night. Register by November 11.

WINTER WALK

Sunday, Dec 21

3:00-4:00 pm

Prairie Building

\$5/person

Celebrate the Winter Solstice with a winter hike. We will look for animal tracks, signs and do some bird watching. After the hike we'll enjoy some hot chocolate in the auditorium and watch the sun go down.

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

HAND IN HAND: FALL FUN I & II

Together you and your child will discover the wonder of fall through hikes, games, crafts and stories. Please dress for the weather, since we will be spending a portion of each class outside. A snack will be provided. Ages 2 ½-3 ½ year olds and accompanying adult. Register by September 5.

FALL FUN I

Mondays, Sept 15, 22, 29, Oct 6, 13 & 20

10:00-11:30 am Prairie Building Goldenrod Classroom

\$50/child/6 week session

FALL FUN II

Saturdays, Sept 13, 20, 27, Oct 4, 11, & 18

9:30-11:00 am Prairie Building Goldenrod Classroom

\$50/child/6 week session



STICKY WEBS AND CRAWLY BUGS

Monday, Oct 13

10:00-11:00 am

Prairie Building

\$3/person

Come and discover some of the many invertebrates found in Nebraska. We'll search for spiders, crickets, and so much more. Dress for exploring outdoors! Register by Oct 9.

DROP N' SHOP

Monday, Dec 22

9:00 am - noon

Prairie Building

\$20/ child \$15/additional sibling

Got some last minute Christmas shopping to finish or holiday preparations? Leave your kids at the Nature Center for a morning of fun activities. Children ages 4 and up are welcome from 9:00 am - noon. We'll have crafts, games, snack and outdoor exploration. Spaces are limited so reserve your spot by Dec 19.

PLAYFUL PUPPETS: ANIMALS IN WINTER

Monday, Dec 29

10:00 - 11:00 am

Prairie Building

\$3/person

Enjoy a puppet show and learn what the animals of the Nature Center are up to in the winter. Are they sleeping? Where do they find their food? There will also be fun interactive activities following the show. Register by Dec 26.

MUSIC AND STORY TIME

Friday, Jan 2, 2015

10:00-11:00 am

Prairie Building

\$3/person

Make some music, listen to stories and get your sillies out!

Register by Dec 30.

NATURE CENTER PRESCHOOL

Our program is built on the conviction that children learn by doing: hiking, climbing, digging, building and being outdoors regardless of the weather. Contact the Preschool Director at 402-441-8669 for more information.

There are still openings for the 2014-2015 School Year

HAYRACK RIDES

Load up and head out on a wagon ride through the woods and prairie of Pioneers Park. Afterwards enjoy a campfire with beverages and entertainment.

RIDES FOR EVERYONE

Fridays Sept 26, Oct 10, Oct 24 7:00-8:30 pm
Meet in Parking Lot, \$7/person

PRIVATE HAYRACK RIDES

Schedule your own hayrack ride for 30-90 people.
September 13 – November 1, 7:00-8:30 pm.
Call for rates and availability.

SPECIALLY FOR SCOUTS

SCOUT HIKES

One hour naturalist-led hikes are available.
Fee: \$4/scout/minimum 10. Arrange 2 weeks in advance.

BADGEWORK

The Nature Center rotates scheduled badges and try-its. Upon request, staff will work with leaders for other badge programming with the following fee schedule:

2 hours or less: \$8/scout/minimum 10
2.5-3 hours: \$12/scout/minimum 10

NATURALIST ACTIVITY BADGE FOR WEBELOS

Saturday, Oct 4 9:30 a.m. - Noon
Prairie Building \$12/scout

Learn to identify the poisonous plants and animals of our area, search for animals of our region, investigate food chains, bird flyways and the importance of wetlands! Complete activities 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 with the help of Nature Center staff. Register by Oct 1.

JUNIOR NATURALIST SERIES

Sundays 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Prairie Building Fee: \$15/scout

This series of programs is targeted at Brownies but all levels of Girl Scouts are welcome to attend. Fee includes instructor, supplies, snacks and recognition. Come dressed for the weather, we'll be outside for at least part of the time! Register through the Girl Scouts at girlscoutsnebraska.org at least two weeks before the program.

Sept 14 Solar Powered
Oct 12 Naturally Poetic
Nov 16 Wild Eats
Dec 14 Telling Tales

EAGLE SCOUTS

Barrett Brock - boardwalk near natural play area
Thomas Graul - new kiosk in parking lot
Simon Nauman - new bench on elk bridge

Thank you to all the Eagle Scouts, friends and families that have all collaborated to make these and so many other great projects at PPNC a success!

DONATIONS

Richard & Barbara Voeltz
Adam & Rachel Petersen
Family
Nebraska Herbal Society
Bob Pewthers

Bike Kitchen
Atasha Hamilton
Christine Gillespie
Tabitha Bell

Irene Alexander
Memorials will be listed in the next newsletter

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

MYSTERY ON THE PRAIRIE

Friday, Sept 12 6:30 pm Prairie Building
\$100/4 person team or \$25/person
Tickets must be purchased in advance

Join the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center for an 1890's Murder Mystery on the Prairie. Be prepared to think on your feet, decipher the clues and have a fantastic time with your friends. Come in costume to be eligible for prizes and meet in "The Old Saloon" for a chili dinner and drinks.



HAWK WATCHING TRIP

Saturday, Oct 4 8:00 am-4:00 pm
Meet in the Nature Center Parking Lot \$45/person

The fall migration is the perfect time to observe hawks. Let us take you on a bird watching trip to see and learn more about hawk identification and migration. We will go to Hitchcock Nature Center in Crescent, Iowa to participate in their annual Hitchcock HawkWatch. Birding volunteers will be on site to help spot birds. Be prepared to walk around and explore the site. Bring your binoculars, we'll provide transportation and a catered sack lunch. Register by September 29.

HOLIDAY GREENERY WORKSHOP

Saturday, Dec 6 9:00-11:00 am
Prairie Building \$25/person

Grab a mug or basket from us or bring your own container to decorate. We provide greenery, pine cones, ribbon, wire and the know-how. You'll have a couple of finished decorations for your home or for gifts. Register by December 4.

Pioneers Park Nature Center

Lincoln Parks & Recreation
2740 "A" Street
Lincoln, NE 68502

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

Save
a tree and get
your newsletter by
email. Send a request
to [naturecenter@
lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov)



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.



TURNING IN MY KEYS

It was May 1999 and I was watching a school group file into a circle outside my office of the Chet Ager Building. It was the first of thousands of children that I would see each year. I started out in a cramped, small, somewhat smelly room with an old computer on a table. There weren't any vents to bring in air conditioning or heat, so my professional style was shorts in the summer and sweatshirts in the winter.

It's been a joy to watch Pioneers Park Nature Center grow in visitors, programs, gardens and a new addition to the Prairie Building. What I enjoy most is the laughter that comes from the preschool classrooms down the hall. Preschool started with 10 children in a gift shop room that others told me wouldn't work. I didn't listen and thanks to great teachers, the program has thrived.



Some of the best times have been walking the trails and listening to the birds and frogs promising spring is coming or to the cottonwood leaves rustling in the fall. I have always said that I learned something new every day. My best teachers have been the people I have worked with that are so knowledgeable in so many fields. The full time and part time staff has always been terrific. They work at PPNC because of their love for nature and that has made my job much easier.

I cherish the volunteers and especially the Friends of PPNC that have contributed so much time, energy, talents and treasurers to help support the Nature Center in so many ways. The passion of the volunteers and dedicated staff will ensure that the Nature Center will keep its beauty and integrity.

So catch me on the trails as I won't be in any office. As of September 5th I'm turning over my keys to Andrea Faas the new coordinator and all the other capable and energetic staff. Hugs to all – Nancy Furman, Coordinator