



FROM THE TRAILS

OF THE PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

APRIL - AUGUST 2013

Re-Discover Nature's Playground... it's good for you!

That's right a daily dose of play in nature is just what our bodies need. We crave mental and physical stimulation and nature provides that. Listening to the songs of birds, walking the trails looking at all the amazing life, relaxing with friends and family or enjoying the peace by yourself. When we go outside we breathe deeper, our eyes relax and our mind can focus on what is all around us.

So many people comment that Pioneers Park Nature Center is their favorite place in Lincoln but they haven't visited in years. Well this year we challenge you to rediscover the Nature Center as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary. Bring your family for Nature's Market, enjoy a date night at Coffee House on the Prairie or a day with friends at the Herbal Festival. Any day is a great day to stop by, visit the animals, explore the trails and reinvigorate your body and mind.

WILDERNESS NATURE CAMPS

SENSE OF WONDER * SELF CONFIDENCE * ADVENTURE * BEAUTY * MESSY GOOD TIME * FRESH AIR * NATURE * WILD ANIMALS * WHERE GETTING DIRTY IS A GOOD THING *

New Camps and New Locations for WNC

8 fun weeks at 4 locations!!



- **Nature Freaks Camp** for 13-15 year olds, July 29-Aug 2. This will be a week of fun with no little kids allowed.
- **Janye Snyder Trail Center** is the perfect location for bike camp with connection to trails throughout town.
- **Pioneers Park Nature Center** camps focus on prairies and outdoor cooking.
- **Holmes Lake** is a site for fishing, hiking and boating.



- Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Extended hours (7:30-8:30 a.m. and 5-5:30 p.m.)
- \$170/week, save \$10 if registered by May 1st
- Register at parks.lincoln.ne.gov or call 402.441.7895

CAMP DISCOVERY

Camp for 3-6 year olds at Pioneers Park Nature Center. Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. \$70/week

| Green and Growing: June 3-6 | Thank You Trees: June 10-13 |

| Reptiles Rock: June 17-20 | Reptiles Rock: June 24-27 | Our Many Legged Friends: July 8-11 |

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.

Enrolling Now for 2013-2014 School Year

Preschool Ages 3 - 5

9-11:30am TTh

9-11:30am WF

12:30-2:30pm TTh

Pre-K Ages 4 - 5

9-11:30am MWF

12:30-2:30pm MWF

Contact the Preschool Director at 402-441-8669 for more information.

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: lincoln.ne.gov/city/parks/naturecenter

Mailing Address: 2740 A Street, Lincoln, NE 68502

SPRING PROGRAMS

BIRD BANDING DEMONSTRATIONS

Saturdays, April 13 and May 4 9 a.m. - Noon

Bird Banding Station Donation

Get up close some of the migratory birds that pass through our area as well as our year round residents. A licensed bird bander will be capturing, identifying, banding and releasing the birds. In case of rain or excessive heat, banding will be cancelled.

BIRD IDENTIFICATION 101

Saturdays, April 13 and 20 8:30-10 a.m.

Prairie Building \$20/2 sessions, register by April 6

Birding is the fastest growing form of outdoor recreation in the US and is popular all over the world. This class will provide participants with some basic identification and acquaint them with the tools available to enhance their birding experience. The class, led by Dave Titterington of the Wild Bird Habitat Stores, will conclude with a morning bird walk through the Nature Center to try out your skills and a bird banding demonstration on April 13.

DROP IN HIKE

Saturday, April 20 9:30 - 11 a.m.

Chet Ager Building \$3 suggested donation

Join Nebraska Master Naturalists for a hike around the Nature Center. See, hear and explore what's going on along the trails.

POETRY ON THE PRAIRIE

Sunday, April 21 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Prairie Building \$5 suggested donation

Looking out over prairie and pond, take some time out to share poetry – your own or that of other poets you treasure, or just come to listen. No registration necessary.

NATURE'S MARKET

Saturday, April 27

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. FREE!

It's going to be an exciting day filled with lots of activities, food, jewelry, plants, and crafts. Enjoy entertainment by the String Beans at 11:30 a.m.

There will be an auction of decorated watering cans and unique garden benches. It is a day of fun for all ages. Sponsored by the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center, all proceeds support scholarships to Nature Center programming.



SCAVENGER HUNT

Sunday, May 5 2 - 4 p.m.

Prairie Building \$3/person

This afternoon is about seeking and finding. A scavenger hunt for all ages, everybody will have fun searching for signs of spring and will get to meet some of our resident animals up close.

BACKYARD COMPOSTING

Saturdays, May 11 and June 8 10 a.m.

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 or plastic compost bin.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST AND BIRD WALK

May 12, Sunday 8-10 a.m.

Prairie Building \$10/person, register by May 9

Treat your mother to a unique Mother's Day early morning bird walk followed by a breakfast of rolls, fruit, and a beverage. Binoculars will be provided for those who do not have their own.

COFFEE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE

May 18, Saturday 8-10 p.m.

On the Prairie \$15/person

Enjoy a casual evening on the prairie, watching the sunset, sipping beverages and listening to folk bluegrass. Sponsored by Meadowlark Coffee & Espresso, this event will have unlimited coffee and tea, performances by Blue Boat Pilots and local poets. Advanced tickets recommended and are available at the Nature Center and Meadowlark Coffee & Espresso.



FROGGY WENT A-HUNTIN'

June 15, Saturday 7-8:30 p.m.

Chet Ager Bldg \$8/person, \$15/family, register by June 12

Let's hunt frogs, tadpoles and a lot of exotic looking little critters that make their home in our pond or stream. We'll take a good look before letting them go. Wear old clothes and shoes and bring insect repellent.

HERBAL FESTIVAL

June 22, Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Chet Ager Building \$5 - \$40/person

Summer is here! Come smell the beauty and learn about herbs and their uses. Betsy Williams, herbal expert of Andover, Massachusetts will be leading

workshops on "Making the Ordinary Extraordinary" and "Flavor and Fragrance: Planting a Container Herb Garden".

Other workshops will include: Eastern Mediterranean cooking and Fairy Houses. Samples and vendors will also be onsite for the special day. Space is limited for workshops so register early to reserve your spot.



BACKYARD CAMPING

June 29, Saturday 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Prairie Building \$7/person, register by June 26

Presented in cooperation with Nebraska Game and Parks, this program will involve the entire family in setting up a campsite, fire building, outdoor cooking, and games.

ROCK AND MINERAL GRINDING PARTY

July 7, Sunday 1-4 p.m.

Chet Ager Building Donation

What are some of the various gems and minerals found in the Great Plains? How are gemstones prepared for jewelry? Processes from the "rough" stone through cutting, polishing, and finishing will be demonstrated by members of the Lincoln Gem and

PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

Saturday April 13, 8:30-10:30 am Bird Identification Class
Saturday April 13, 9:00 am-noon Bird Banding
Saturday April 20, 8:30-10:30 am Bird Identification Class
Saturday April 20, 9:30-11:00 am Drop-in Guided Hike
Sunday April 21, 1:30-3:30 pm Girl Scouts Program

Saturday April 27, 10 am-3 pm Nature's Market



May

Saturday May 4, International Migratory Bird Day;
9:00 am-noon Bird Banding and kids crafts
Sunday May 5, 2:00-4:00 pm Scavenger Hunt
Saturday May 11, 9:30 am-noon Webelo's Naturalist Badge Program
Saturday May 11, 10 am Backyard Composting
Sunday May 12, 8-10 am Mother's Day Breakfast and Birdwalk
Thursday May 16, Give to Lincoln Day - Support local non-profits
Saturday May 18, 8-10 pm Coffee House on the Prairie
Sunday May 19, 1:30-3:30 pm Girl Scouts Program



June

Wednesday June 5, 10-11 am Animal Antics: Song Birds
Saturday June 8, 10 am Backyard Composting
Sunday June 9, 1:30-3:30 pm Girl Scouts Program
Wednesday June 12, 10-11 am Animal Antics: Bison, Elk & Deer
Saturday June 15, 7-8:30 pm Froggy Went a Huntin'
Wednesday June 19, 10-11 am Animal Antics: Snakes & Turtles
Saturday June 22, 9:30 am-2:30 pm Herbal Festival
Wednesday June 26, 10-11 am Animal Antics: Bald Eagle or Wild Turkey?
Saturday June 29, 5-7:30 pm Backyard Camping



July

Sunday July 7, 1-4 pm Rock and Mineral Grinding Party
Wednesday July 10, 10-11 am Animal Antics: Owls, Hawks & Falcons
Saturday July 13, 9-12:30 pm Butterfly Count
Wednesday July 17, 10-11 am Animal Antics: Amphibians
Sunday July 21, 1:30-3:30 pm Girl Scouts Program
Wednesday July 24, 10-11 am Animal Antics: Insects & Spiders

PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August



Friday Aug 2, 7-8:30 pm Family Nature Night
Saturday Aug 3, 11 am-5 pm Snakes of Nebraska
Sunday Aug 18, 1:30-3:30 pm Girl Scouts Program

September

Sunday Sept 8, 2-4 pm Grandparent's Day
Friday Sept 27, 6:30-9 pm Beer, Brats and Bison
Sunday Sept 22, 1:30-3:30 pm Girl Scouts Program
Friday Sept 20 & 28, 7-8:30 pm Public Hayrack
Saturday Sept 28, 10 am Backyard Composting



October

Friday Oct 4, 7-8:30 pm Public Hayrack
Saturday Oct 5, 9:30 am-noon Webelo's Forestry Badge
Friday Oct 11, 7-8:30 pm Public Hayrack
Sunday Oct 13, 1:30-3:30 pm Girl Scouts Program
Friday Oct 18, 6:30-9 pm Spooktacular
Saturday Oct 19, 6:30-9 pm Spooktacular
Friday Oct 25, 7-8:30 pm Public Hayrack



November

Friday Nov 1, 7-8:30 pm Public Hayrack
Saturday Nov 9, 9 am-noon Prairie Run
Saturday Nov 16, 7-8:30 pm Owl Prowl
Sunday Nov 17, 1:30-3:30 pm Girl Scouts Program
Saturday Nov 23, 1-3 pm Survival Basics
Saturday Nov 30, 10 am-noon Holiday Greenery Workshop

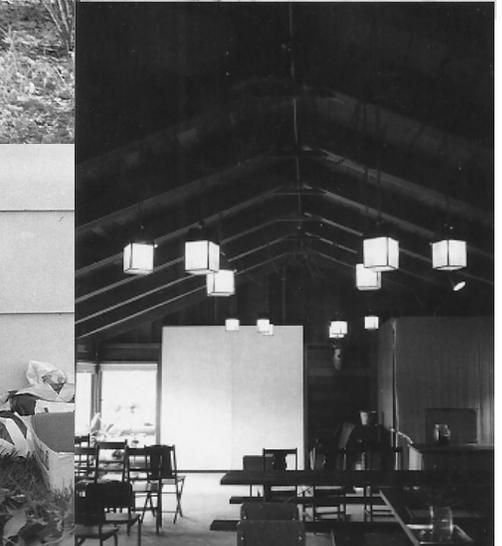


December

Saturday Dec 7, 7:30 am - 3 pm Eagle Watching Trip
Sunday Dec 15, 1:30-3:30 pm Girl Scouts Program
Friday Dec 27, 10-11 am Puppet Show



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS





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May 21st, 1963 Dedication of Chet Ager Bird and Wildlife Nature Study Sanctuary, a 40 acre wildlife sanctuary.

1964 The Chet Ager Building was completed.

1972 Louise Evans Doole Herb Garden was established.

1975 16 acres were acquired across Haines Branch Creek.

1985 An additional 80 acres were added to the Nature Center as the result of a study that eliminated the existing outdoor zoo. New exhibits of native wild turkey, bison, American elk, and white-tailed deer were completed.

1990 The Education Wing of the Prairie building was constructed.

1992 The Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center was established.

1996 The Denise and Robert Powell Family donated 56 acres of land known as Verley Prairie.

1997 The Malinovskis Auditorium and kitchenette was added on the Prairie Building which seats 80-100 people.

1997 Acquired first parcel of Martin Prairie 157 acres from the David Martin Family.

1999 An additional 80 acres were acquired from the Martin Family.

2000 The Preschool program was established for 3 -5 year olds.

2005 Acquired 228 acres known as Foundation Prairie from the Martin Family.

2007 An exhibit and visitor service wing was built utilizing green building techniques and certified as a LEED Silver building.

2008 Prairie Immersion program was started as a partnership with Lincoln Public Schools and Spring Creek Prairie. It is funded by the Hugo Aspengren Trust.

2010 Hudson Cabin and the Heritage School are moved from the Lincoln State Fair grounds to the Nature Center.

2011 The Chet Ager Building was remodeled and the Children's Garden was established.

2012 The Irene and George Alexander Bird Garden was dedicated.

April 27, 2013 Nature's Market and Celebration of 50 years of Pioneers Park Nature Center.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

BUTTERFLY COUNT

July 13, Saturday 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Prairie Building \$5/person, register by July 9

Take part in the annual butterfly count sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). We'll begin with an hour-long introductory slide show. Participants will then disperse to the count areas: Pioneers Park Nature Center, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, and Nine-Mile Prairie. No need to be an expert, an experienced person will accompany each group. The count involves walking about 2 hours and covering 2 to 3 miles. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

FAMILY NATURE NIGHT

August 2, Friday 7-8:30 p.m.
Prairie Building \$15/family, register by August 1

Let's see if we can spot some crepuscular animals on our trails, then sing and tell stories around the campfire while enjoying s'mores.

ANIMAL ANTICS: SUMMER DROP-IN PROGRAM

Offered on Wednesdays from June 5th -26th, July 10th - 24th, 10:00-11:00 a.m., these programs will start off from the Prairie Building. Each week we'll explore one or more of the animals that live at the Nature Center. Groups of six or more are asked to pre-register. Children's groups must be supervised: one adult for every six children. **Fee: \$3/child**

June 5: Songbirds July 10: Owls, Hawks & Falcons
June 12: Bison, Elk & Deer July 17: Amphibians
June 19: Snakes and Turtles July 24: Insects and Spiders
June 26: Bald Eagle or Wild Turkey?

DISCOVERY DAYS

Naturalist-led programs are available for any group during the sunny summer months. Focusing on our natural environment or our gardens, these programs are from one to two hours long. On hot days, part of the program is held indoors with our exhibit animals. Times arranged, must be booked 2 weeks in advance. Fee: \$4/person, \$32 minimum, children's supervisors free.

HYDE MEMORIAL OBSERVATORY

Located in Holmes Park on Holmes South Shore Road. The observatory is open to the public each Saturday, 8-11 p.m. View the night sky through three telescopes, visit with knowledgeable volunteers and enjoy two video programs. Donations accepted. 402.441.7094 for information.

FRIENDS OF PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

The Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center promote and support the development, programming and operation of the Nature Center. We need people like you to jump in and help to persevere and grow this dynamic resource. By becoming a Friend of the Nature Center you can support stewardship, outreach and awareness. You will also receive benefits including:

- Access to special Friends programming
- 10% discount off all Nature Center gift shop items
- Free or reduced admission to other nature centers nation wide
- The satisfaction of supporting a valuable community resource

Call 402.441.7895 to learn more about the Friends membership or follow Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center on Facebook.

PROGRAMS FOR SCOUTS

SCOUT HIKES

One hour naturalist-led hikes are available. Fee: \$3/scout/minimum 10. Call 402-441-7895

BADGEWORK

The Nature Center rotates scheduled badges. Upon request, staff will work with leaders for other badge programming.

NATURALIST ACTIVITY BADGE FOR WEBLOS

May 11, Saturday 9:30 a.m.-Noon
Prairie Building \$10/scout, register by May 2

Learn to identify the poisonous plants and animals of our area, search for the animals of our region, investigate food chains, bird flyways and the importance of wetlands! Nature Center staff will help you complete activities # 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

JUNIOR NATURALIST SERIES

Saturdays, April 21, May 19, June 9, July 21 & Aug. 18
9:00-11:30 a.m. Prairie Building \$15/scout

Inspired by the "It's Your Planet, Love It" journey, go on an amazing outdoor adventure designed to help you learn more about nature and appreciate the crucial role it plays on our planet. A six month series, sign up for one day to all six. 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 Girls Scouts at girlscoutsnebraska.org at least two weeks before the program. Find registration information on page 9 of the 2012/13 Program Book. Registration deadline: two weeks before each program.

April 21 Get Growing: use our senses to discover new animals & plants as they start growing

May 19 Nature's Recyclers: we will be on a scavenger hunt for the FBI: Fungi, Bacteria and Invertebrates which are nature's recyclers.

June 9 Water Wonders: we will be learning some fascinating things about water and what lives there. Join us as we discover aquatic insects and more!

July 21 Exploring Turtles: we are going to learn more about turtles by searching for them on a nature walk.

Aug 18 Tree-rific! Go on a hike through the woods of the Nature Center to learn about the many kinds of trees in our area.

2013 Friends Board Members

Stan Beeder, Mary Daily, Kara Foster, Janee Gagner-Wilcox, Brett Foley, Jill Grasso, Dennis Hoffman, Adam Hohbein, Melissa Landis, Kelli Niedbalski, Chris Niemann, Amanda Podwinski, Diane Pratt, Bill Smith, Judy Vitamvas, Susan Adams, Staci Hass, Matt Mittan, Jenny Weisser, Andrew Post

Thank you for your dedication and support of the Nature Center. The staff and patrons of PPNC are grateful for all that you do to help make this a special place for everyone!

Pioneers Park Nature Center

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

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Permit No. 135



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.



Volunteers are critical to the success of the Nature Center. Without their help we would not be able to maintain the site, programming or wonderful experiences had here. Last year alone about 300 volunteers donated over 1650 hours to help maintain the habitat, programs and wildlife. Some volunteers are regulars who help out weekly or monthly. Other volunteers come with groups including scouts, churches, businesses, schools and service organizations. If you are interested in volunteering contact Andrea Faas at afaas@lincoln.ne.gov or 402-441-8708.

VOLUNTEERS

- Kawasaki Motors
- Ron & Sue Samson
- Random Acts of Kindness
- Nebraska Herbal Society
- Zach Davis Family - Coyote mount
- Charles Ray Gartner
- Campbell McConnell
- Dooie Family Charitable Foundation
- Lyle Schreiner Memorials
- Andrew Willis Family - Preschool supplies

THANK YOU

Donations:

Volunteer Opportunities
Land Management
Help staff maintain the Nature Center land. Tasks include chip-ping trails, preparing for prescribed burns, helping with the actual burns, preparing soil for plantings, planting and watering, weed control, tree removal, and seed gathering.
Herb Garden Volunteer
Help staff care for the herb garden. Workdays include several afternoons in April to clean up the garden, a garden planting party during the 2nd week of May, 8:30 - 10:30 sessions on a weekday chosen by the group weekly in late May and June, every other week in July and August, and a garden potting party in October.
Prairie Garden Volunteers
Help staff care for the prairie gardens and nursery. Saturday morning workdays from 9 - noon, April through September (work intense in May and early June, tapering off later in season).
Special Events:
The Nature Center occasionally sponsors special events. These could not be presented without volunteer help. They give volunteers an opportunity to give assistance with a one-time-only commitment.