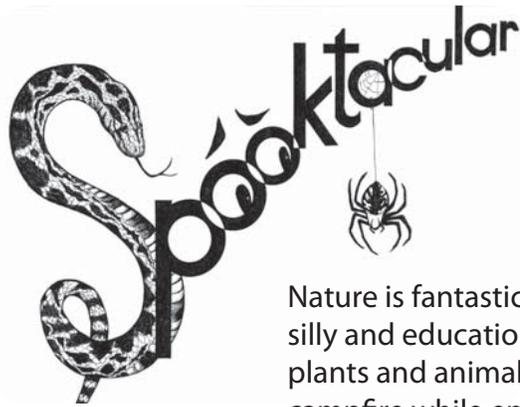




FROM THE TRAILS

OF THE PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2013



MYTH BUSTERS!

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

October 18 & 19; 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Start times every 15 minutes.

Nature is fantastic and strange but do you know the facts from fiction? Visit seven silly and educational skits that will set straight some of the incredible claims about plants and animals. At the end of the trail we will have popcorn and cider around the campfire while enjoying songs and stories with Mike and the Mighty Magic Pants!

\$7 per person.

Call 402-441-7895 to register.

Register early for your choice of time.

Costumes welcome!



HAYRACK RIDES

Load up and head out on a wagon ride followed by a campfire with a live animal, stories and songs.

Rides for everyone

Date: Fridays Sept 20, Oct 11, Oct 25 & Nov 1 | Time: 7-8:30pm

Location: Parking Lot | Fee: \$7/person

Zombie Night

This night is going to be a scary good time with a thrilling hayrack ride and creepy stories. Zombie attire encouraged

Date: Friday, Oct 4 | Time: 8-9:30pm

Location: Parking Lot | Fee: \$10/person

Private Hayracks

September 13 – November 10, 7-8:30pm Schedule your own private hayrack ride. Call for availability.

NEW DONATION BOXES

This spring the Nature Center installed several new donation boxes. In the Prairie Building, is a beautiful bison sculpture that accepts donations. When you "feed" the bison it will bellow, stampe or grunt a "Thank you!"

Along the trail are a few other black donation boxes. All donations made to the Nature Center support conservation and education efforts.



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

PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

GRANDPARENT'S NATURE FUN DAY

September 8, Sunday 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Prairie Building \$5 /person

Come celebrate Grandparent's Day by spending a fun filled afternoon at the Nature Center doing a scavenger hunt, meeting a live animal and trying other hands-on activities.

BACKYARD COMPOSTING

September 28 or October 12, Saturday 10:00 a.m.
Composting Demonstration Area Free

Learn how to compost in your backyard! Training session provided by UNL Extension and the City Recycling Office at the Nature Center's backyard composting demonstration area. Two participants will receive a free soil thermometer and everyone gets a voucher for a compost bin. Program lasts approximately 1 hour.

POETRY ON THE PRAIRIE

November 3, Sunday 1:00-3:30 p.m.
Prairie Building \$5 suggested donation

Looking out over the prairie and pond, take some time out to share poetry – your own or that of other poets you treasure, or just come and listen. If the weather cooperates, we will spend much of the time outdoors.

PRAIRIE RUN

November 9, Saturday 9:00 a.m. - noon
By the School House \$10/kids 1 mile, \$20 adult/5K
if registered by Nov 1

Want to experience the Nature Center in a whole new way? We are hosting our first trail run. New trails have been mowed through our northern and western sections of prairie to make room for this event. There will be a 1 mile run for kids ages 5 – 12 with age groups starting at different times. Young adults ages 13 and up and adults will participate in 5K walk/run. Everyone who registers by November 1st 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.

OWL PROWL

November 15, Friday 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Prairie Building \$7/person

Who whoos out there? Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Nature Center under a starry sky. We will look and listen for owls and other animals of the night. *Register by November 12.*

SURVIVAL BASICS

November 23, Saturday 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Prairie Building \$7/person

Can you survive in the wild? This program will go over our basic needs of food, water, shelter and fire. Our presenter, BJ Spring, will have artifacts to demonstrate how to meet these needs when out in the wild so that you could survive!

BIRTHDAY PARTIES: Choose the theme that will make for an exciting birthday celebration. Available from 10-12 on Saturdays and 2-4 on Saturdays and Sundays. We provide the space, program, a favor bag for each child and a special gift for the guest of honor. Available facilities: BirthDay House, \$75 for up to 10 children and 3 adults; \$7 each additional child, maximum of 15 children Auditorium, \$100 for up to 10 children and 5 adults; \$7 each additional child, \$3 each additional adult

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

HAND IN HAND: FALL FUN

Mondays, Sept 9, 16 & 23, Oct 7, 21 & 28, Nov 4 & 11
Ages 2 1/2 - 3 1/2 with accompanying adult
10:00-11:30 a.m. \$65/8 week session

Together you and your child will discover the wonder of fall through hikes, games, crafts, and stories. Please dress for the weather, we will be spending a portion of each class outside. A snack will be provided Prairie Building Goldenrod Classroom. *Register by September 5.*

WHEN SCHOOL'S OUT...

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH ANIMALS

October 14, Monday 3:00-4:30 p.m.
Prairie Building \$5/child

Do you love animals? Get up close with the captive animals and help Nature Center staff feed and care for them. School aged children. *Register by Oct 11.*

ANIMAL ANTICS: Sticky Webs and Crawly Bugs

October 15, Tuesday 10:00-11:00 a.m.
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

PLAYFUL PUPPETS: Animals in Winter

December 26, Thursday 10:00-11:00 a.m.
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.

STORYTELLING & MUSIC

January 2, Thursday 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Prairie Building \$3/person

Join our Naturalist for an interactive morning of seasonal songs and stories. Some instruments will be provided and participants are welcome to bring their own.

NATURE CENTER PRESCHOOL

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

January 21, Tuesday 10:00-11:00 a.m. or 1:00-2:00 p.m.
Inclement Weather Date: January 28, Tuesday

The Nature Center preschool and pre-kindergarten programs are for children ages 3 – 5 years old. You are invited to attend an open house to see the classrooms and meet with our director.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

2014-2015 school year registration begins February 1, 2014.

SPECIALLY FOR SCOUTS

SCOUT HIKES

One hour naturalist-led hikes are available.
Fee: \$3/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: \$7/scout/minimum 10
2.5-3 hours: \$10/scout/minimum 10

JUNIOR NATURALIST SERIES

Sundays, Sept 22, Oct 13, Nov 17, Dec 15

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

Inspired by the "It's Your Story, Tell It" journey, explore nature to discover how you and wildlife lead healthy lives. This is a five month series, sign up for one day to all five. 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 @ www.girlscoutsnebraska.org
Registration deadline: two weeks before each program.

Sept 22: Fall Harvest

October 13: Home on the Range

November 18: Talking Turkey

December 9: Star Stories

FORESTRY ACTIVITY BADGE FOR WEBELOS

Oct 5, Saturday 9:30 a.m. - Noon
Prairie Building \$10/scout

Trees are an important part of our lives. Complete requirements 2, 3, 4, 6 and 9 with the help of Nature Center staff. Register by October 3.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

So far the Nature Center has been having a wonderful 50th Anniversary! Our annual Nature's Market put on by the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center was a success thanks to the many visitors, vendors and Friends board volunteers. The morning started out cool and drizzly but about the moment the String Beans took the stage the sun came out and the dancing started! Afterwards Mayor Buetler made a proclamation about the 50th Anniversary. Terry Genrich, Natural Resources Manager and former staff of the Nature Center shared memories and thanked staff and volunteers for all they have done over the years. We finished the day with the garden bench and watering can auctions which brought in over \$3500 to support program scholarships!

The first Coffee House on the Prairie event was hosted with Meadowlark Coffee and Espresso on May 18th. It was a gorgeous evening with an amazing sunset thanks to thunderstorm clouds in the distance. Guests enjoyed coffee and tea while listening to a variety of acoustic performances by Bud Heavy & The High Lifes, Jack Hotel, and Chris Bowling.



This year's herb of the year is Elderberry and though it wasn't the star of the Herbal Festival there was plenty to celebrate.

Betsy Williams from Massachusetts was our featured presenter and demonstrated how to make fresh herbal flower arrangements and talked about growing herbs in containers for culinary uses. Becky Seth held a workshop on Georgian Cooking and Rachel Leister presented on herbal medicinals, both were very popular. Following the workshops participants and the public sampled herbal teas, butters, mock-tails, honey, cheeses and could purchase a refreshing lunch wrap with herbal ingredients. It was truly a day for the senses!

FRIENDS OF PPNC

BEER, BRATS AND BISON

September 27, Friday 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Prairie Building \$20/Friends of PPNC \$25/guests
Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Join the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center for a lovely outdoor evening. There will be a social hour sponsored by Blue Blood Brewing, live music by Synkope, fresh food and a presentation about bison and followed by a moonlit stroll. All funds raised will help provide food and habitat conservation for the bison of Pioneers Park Nature Center.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

HOLIDAY GREENERY WORKSHOP

December 7, Saturday 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
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.

EAGLE WATCHING TRIP

December 7, Saturday 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Meet at South Walmart parking lot \$45/person

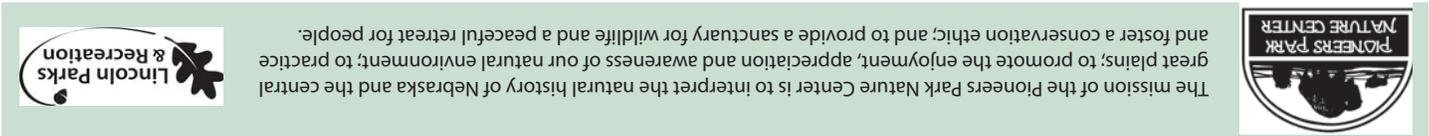
Bald eagles are incredible to watch and we will make a special trip to view them at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge in Missouri. Let us take you bird watching and we will view a variety of migrating waterfowl and of course eagles. Refuge staff will be leading programs and manning spotting scopes. Bring your binoculars, we'll provide transportation and a catered sack lunch. Register by December 4.



Pioneers Park Nature Center

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

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 Lincoln, NE
 Permit No. 135



Herb Garden
 Volunteers

Each job has different requirements, contact Andrea Faas for more information 402.441.8708 afaas@lincoln.ne.gov

- Registration
- Skit Performer
- Refreshment Server
- Trail Walker
- Hike Leader
- Parking Assistant

need you!
 help of lots of people. The following jobs are available and for families? We need your help. Spooktacular requires the Want to help with a fun event and create special memories Spooktacular Helpers October 17, 18 & 19

Volunteer Opportunities

- Herb Garden Crew - Herb garden planting & maintenance
- Prairie Garden Crew - Prairie landscaping around buildings
- Aiden Clarke - water feature, Eagle Scout project
- Wesleyan Tri Beta members - cleaning up garden areas
- UNL Big Event students - road side clean up on Van Dorn
- Troy Nelson - rope fence Eagle Scout project along Haines Branch in Fleming Woods.
- Unitarian Church - assisting with landscaping
- Monsanto - Buckthorn and other invasive plant pulling
- Bob Pewthers - Herb Garden arches
- Lincoln Life Benefit - assisting with landscaping

Donations:
 Lincoln Parks Foundation
 Donors to the "Give to Lincoln Campaign" that was conducted by
 The Lincoln Community Foundation
 Lyle Schreiner - \$2,135
 Scott & Aimee Hollon - \$500
 Bernard & Kristin Berck - \$25
 Unitarian Church - \$530
 Shirley Sabs Memorial - \$600
 Ron Samson Memorial - \$300
 Nelnet - \$500
 Random Acts of Kindness 2 scholarships donations
 Pepe's Bistro
 Meadowlark Coffee and Espresso
 Channel 8
 Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
 Lower Platte South Natural Resources District
 Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center

THANK YOU

VOLUNTEERS