

2020-2021 Sioux County Conservation Board

Environmental Education Opportunities

Winter pop-up Program-snow shoeing-Oak Grove Park

It is our intention to host public snowshoe outings starting at the Prairie Woods Nature Center this winter. It will be dependent on the amount of snowfall and wind chill. Please watch our Facebook page for these announcements.

January 16- Ice Fishing Clinic- Big Sioux Recreation Area

10 am– noon

Whether you love ice fishing or interested in learning more about it, join us on the ice at the Big Sioux Rec Area, just west of Hawarden. Bring a sack lunch or snacks and a bucket to sit on and we will provide the rest! We will pre-drill the holes, provide bait, poles and discuss the types of fish you may catch and equipment being used. There is no cost for this event, entry fee to the park is waved during the time of the program. Those age 16 and over actively fishing must have a valid Iowa fishing license. Please preregister in case we have to limit numbers due to governor regulations.

January 19– Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)- Prairie Woods Nature Center

choose from morning or afternoon times

9:30-10:30 am or 2-3pm

Seniors! Looking for a great place to gather with friends? The Prairie Woods Nature Center will host Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship, SELF, ever third Tuesday of the month. Coffee, treats and fellowship will follow a short presentation. Each month we will explore a different area of the natural world. We promise you will enjoy your-SELF!
Topic: By Design

February 5- Owl Prowl with special guest, Kelly McKay, Expert Birder– Prairie Woods Nature Center

6-8 pm

February is a great time for hearing owls during their courtship and egg-laying season. We will meet at the Prairie Woods Nature Center for an hour of learning about owls. Then we will spend the second hour hiking and calling for owls including barred, great horned and screech owls. Dress warmly and feel free to bring a flashlight covered with a red cloth or cellophane. A live owl will make its appearance! Pre-registration is required in case we have to limit numbers due to social distancing. This program is part of the “Build a Better Birder” series of programs brought to us through Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP-CEP) grant.

February 6– Eagle Day - with Kelly McKay, Expert Birder-Prairie Woods Nature Center

“Building a Better Birder” Series with Kelly McKay brought to us by a Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP-CEP) grant.

- **Morning outdoor activity: Eagle Watch-** **8-10am**
Join us for a morning lesson and hike to view local eagles coming off their night roost (indoors if dangerous wind chill). Kelly McKay, guest host, will provide his leadership and expertise.
- **Morning indoor activity: Presentation Topic- Summary and Results of the 2005-2008 Milan Bottoms Bald Eagle Night Roost Survey Project** **10-11:30 am**
Kelly McKay, expert birder, will define and describe what a Bald Eagle communal night roost is, as well as discussing Bald Eagle winter ecology. Additionally, we summarize the background and preliminary results of this 6 year project. Pre-registration is required in case we have to limit numbers due to social distancing.
- **Lunch indoor/outdoor activity: Eagle watch and bring your own sack lunch** **11:30am-1pm**
Bring your binoculars and sack lunch and join fellow eagle lovers as we view eagle migration from the nature center. Bring outdoor clothes just in case we get the itch to watch outdoors. Pre-registration is required in case we have to limit numbers due to social distancing.
- **Afternoon indoor activity: Topic-Assessment of Human Activity Impacts on Bald Eagle Reproductive Success Along the Upper Mississippi** **1-2:30pm**
During this presentation by Kelly McKay, we examine and assess the impacts of various types and frequency of human activities on Bald Eagle reproductive success within the McGregor District of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Pre-registration is required in case we have to limit numbers due to social distancing.

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Topic: By Design, Feet

March 16– Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)- Prairie Woods Nature Center

choose from morning or afternoon times

9:30-10:30 am or 2-3pm

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Topic: By Design, Beaks

March 27- Hunter Safety Field Day-Prairie Woods Nature Center

9 am- 3 pm

Those ages 11 and over are invited to join us for a hunter safety field day. Online registration required at the www.register-ed.com website along with online class work completed prior to class at hunter-ed.com. The Saturday class will cover fire-arm safety, hunting ethics, hunting laws and much more; final exam will be given at end of the day.

Students will need to bring a sack lunch and snacks for the day. We will be shooting outdoors, please dress accordingly.

Must attend full day.

April 1- Summer Camp Registration– Online only

8 am

This is the day to sign your kids up for this year’s summer camp season! Topics, dates and times will be posted prior to this date. Registration will open at 8 am on mycountyparks.com April 1.

April 20– Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)- Prairie Woods Nature Center

9:30-10:30 am

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Topic: By Design, Eggs

May 6-Introduction to Warblers of Iowa instruction and slides-Prairie Woods Nature Center

6-8pm

This program is with guest expert birder, Kelly McKay as part of the “*Building a Better Birder*” Series brought to us by a Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP-CEP) grant. Pre-registration is required in case we have to limit numbers due to social distancing.

May 18– Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)- Prairie Woods Nature Center

choose from morning or afternoon times

9:30-10:30 am or 2-3pm

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Topic: By Design, Animal Coverings

Mark your calendar for our other summer programs:

June 4-morning Birding Hike at Oak Grove

June 4-evening program-Iowa Bird ID

June 10- Outdoor Skills Day

June 12- Family Fishing Clinic

June 15-SELF

July 20-SELF

August 7- Ringneck Rendezvous

August 10- Hunter Safety

August 17-SELF

September 11- Ladies’ Nature Escape

September 18- Dutch Oven Gathering

September 21-SELF

October 9- Trick or Treat Hike

October 19-SELF

October 23- Youth Hunt

