

# Environmental Education Opportunities



Pre-registration REQUIRED for most events but is appreciated for all events, please visit our website at [siouxcountyparks.org/events](http://siouxcountyparks.org/events) to learn more about the programs and how to register. Programs held at the Prairie Woods Nature Center are indicated by:  All other program location noted in description. Cancellation of programs will be posted on our Facebook page and on 93.9 FM.



## December 29- Christmas Break Event, Candy Cane Walk

9am-4pm

Looking for something exciting to do over winter break? The Prairie Woods Nature Center invites you to participate in a fun day on Wed, December 29<sup>th</sup>. Come anytime during the day, this is an open house event. We will have live animal programs at 10am, 11:30, 1pm, and 2:30. You can pick up a map and instructions for a self-guided candy cane trail hike to find hidden objects followed by a candy cane treat and refreshments at the nature center. You can view Christmas trees decorated by Sioux County classrooms and buy tickets at \$5 apiece to vote on your favorite one! Our gift shop will also be open! Cash or check.



## January 18 – Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)

9:30 am and 2pm

Seniors! Looking for a great place to gather with friends? Enjoy coffee, treats and fellowship and a short presentation. Each month we take time to learn more about a chosen creature(s) of our wonderful world! We promise you will enjoy your-SELF!

Topic: Creature Feature- To Be Announced



## January 22-Green Fire: Aldo Leopold & a Land Ethic for Our Time

6-8pm

Would you love to do something to celebrate nature *indoors* this winter? Take a break, have some popcorn, and enjoy the Emmy-Award winning documentary *Green Fire* with us at the Prairie Woods Nature Center. Iowa native Aldo Leopold created the discipline of wildlife management and was a pioneering conservationist. His ground-breaking "land ethic" suggests that "We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." Ann Lundberg will lead this program, and invite you to continue in celebrating Aldo Leopold with a discussion of his book *A Sand County Almanac* on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>.

Instructor Ann Lundberg teaches at Dordt University and with the Creation Care Studies Program in Kaikoura, New Zealand; she specializes in environmental literature and nature writing. A native of Colorado, she has a Bachelor's degree in geology from the University of Wyoming and has spent several summers working as a Ranger with the National Park Service.

Pre-registration appreciated. All ages welcome

## January 29- 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. Preregistration appreciated.



## February 4- Owl Prowl with special guest, Harlan the Barred Owl

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. Harlan the live barred owl will make its appearance! Pre-registration is appreciated

**February 12-Book Discussion, “A Sand County Almanac” by Aldo Leopold****9:30-11am**

Book Discussion of Aldo Leopold’s “A Sand County Almanac”, just 240 easy to read pages. This book is a beautifully written journal of Leopold’s connection to the outdoors in Wisconsin. The book review will include open discussion and will be held in the Conservation Corner Meeting Room of the Nature Center, overlooking the rolling prairie hills. Cookies and coffee provided.

Instructor Ann Lundberg teaches at Dordt University and with the Creation Care Studies Program in Kaikoura, New Zealand; she specializes in environmental literature and nature writing. A native of Colorado, she has a Bachelor’s degree in geology from the University of Wyoming and has spent several summers working as a Ranger with the National Park Service.

Pre-registration appreciated. All ages welcome

**February 15 – Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)****9:30 am and 2pm**

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**February 19-Great Backyard Bird Count****7:30am-?**

Join the Sioux County Birding Club for this bird watching event. We will watch the nature center bird feeders, provide informational sessions, optional hiking opportunities (with snowshoes), and do it together! All bird nerds welcome, experienced and new! *From Great Backyard Bird County Website*, “Each February, for four days, the world comes together for the love of birds. Over these four days we invite people to spend time in their favorite places watching and counting as many birds as they can find and reporting them to us. These observations help scientists better understand global bird populations before one of their annual migrations.” More information and times to come. Please watch our website for further details.

**February 26-Goat Soap Making Class****10am-12:30pm**

Goat milk is excellent for your skin. Handcrafted, pure and local is even better. Now you can experience the process of making your own goat milk soap at the Prairie Woods Nature Center, with instruction from the folks at the Big Red Barn near Sheldon! Choose from no scent or Apricot Freesia. Take some mini bars home that day! After goat milk soap making, we will be making vapor shower bombs and end the morning with wild game soups. \$35, limited to 14 people. Pay at the door.

**March 5- Hunter Safety Field Day****Choose from 8:30-noon or 1pm-4:30pm**

Those ages 11 and over are invited to join us for a hunter safety field day. **Online registration required** at <http://events.gooutdoorsiowa.com> along with **online classwork completed** prior to class at [hunter-ed.com](http://hunter-ed.com). The Saturday half-day class will cover fire-arm safety, hunting ethics, hunting laws and much more; final exam will be given at end of the class. Please dress for indoor and outdoor weather.

**March 12-Fossil, Artifact, and Bone Day!****9:30am-noon**

Do you have a fossil, artifact, or bone that you would like identified? Bring it to the Prairie Woods Nature Center and we will attempt to help you. Evan DeGroot, a local hobbyist from Sioux Center will be available with his collection and resources to share with you.

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**April 9-Writing Nature: using words to engage the natural world****10am-2pm**

Through this writing workshop attendees will improve their writing ability to perceive the natural world and to reflect on the meanings found in nature. Participants will learn through a series of short presentations, indoor writing exercises, and group discussions at the Prairie Woods Nature Center. Ann Lundberg is a Professor of English at Northwestern College. She specializes in environmental and nature writing as taught for the Creation Care Studies Program in Kaikoura, New Zealand. A native of Colorado, she has a Bachelor's degree in geology from the University of Wyoming and has spent several summers working as a Ranger with the National Park Service. Pre-registration required, only 15 spots open. \$10 cost that may be paid at class. Ages teen through adult. Location is Prairie Woods Nature Center. After registration, a selection of *optional readings* will be emailed to do in advance of class.

**April 1 – Summer Camp Sign Up****starts at 8am online only**

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 be open at 8am on [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com) starting April 1.

**April 19 – Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship (SELF)****9:30 am and 2pm**

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**Mark your calendar for our upcoming events: ...**

June 9- Outdoor Skills Day

June 11-Sandy Hollow Family Fishing Clinic

August 6-Ringneck Rendezvous

August 9-Hunter Safety Classroom Course

September 17-Dutch Oven Gathering

October 8-Trick or Treat Hike

October 22-Youth Pheasant Hunt

