

## **WINTER 2009-10 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Indian Creek Nature Center · 6665 Otis Rd SE · Cedar Rapids, IA · 52403

**Registration/information: 319-362-0664. Please register for all programs.**

*\*Cancellations may occur if registration numbers are low.\**

M = Nature Center member. NM = Nonmember of ICNC.

### **Nature's Noel**

***Saturday, Dec. 5, 9 AM–Noon***

A marvelous array of handmade arts and crafts; the scent of fresh evergreen centerpieces, wreaths, and swags; and, delicious baked goods, appetizers and frozen foods will tempt you to support the Nature Center with your purchases! Hosted by the ICNC Guild, this fundraiser also features various vendors, live music, and a hospitality room.

### **Winter Birds for Preschoolers and Parents**

***Tuesday, Dec. 8, 9:30-10:30 AM***

Find out which feathered friends are visiting ICNC and your neighborhood this winter. Learn the calls and colors of common birds and make a treat to take home for your own backyard buddies.

*M Child: \$4, NM Child: \$5. Parents: Free.*

### **GPS Fun**

***Saturday, Dec. 19, 1 PM***

Learn how to use a GPS unit while discovering the fun outdoor sport of geocaching. A geocache is a “treasure” hidden in the prairie or woods. The coordinates of its location are entered into a GPS unit, then you’re off and searching! Bring a trinket to leave in geocaches you find. *M Adult: \$4, NM Adult: \$6, M Child: \$1, NM Child: \$2.*

### **December Holidays**

***Thursday, Dec. 24-Saturday, Dec. 26*** the Nature Center buildings will be closed.

### **Birds, Bird Feeding and Bird Blinds**

***Tuesday, Dec. 29, 1 PM***

Make a simple bird feeder for your yard. Learn to recognize the different winter birds and what foods they are attracted to. Borrow our binoculars to join the naturalist at the bird blind to catch some feathered fun. Then explore along the Cedar River to spot returning eagles. Dress for the outdoors! *M Adult: \$3, NM Adult: \$4, M Child: \$1, NM Child: \$2.*

### **Snowshoe Hike**

***Wednesday, Dec. 30, 10 AM***

A snowshoe walk is great winter exercise with the benefit of fresh air, beautiful scenery, and signs of wildlife to enjoy. Try out your new snowshoes or borrow a pair of ours for an afternoon of outdoor activity. No snow? We’ll hike instead. *M Adult: \$3, NM Adult: \$4, M Child: \$1, NM Child: \$2.*

### **New Year Holidays**

***Friday, Jan. 1-Saturday, Jan. 2*** the Nature Center’s buildings will be closed.

### **Green and Simple: Simplicity Discussion Series**

***Tuesday, Jan. 5, 6:30-7:30 PM***

Voluntary Simplicity: “The ability to simplify to eliminate the unnecessary so that the necessary may speak.” – Hans Hoffman. Voluntary simplicity addresses distractions from modern society that keep us from caring for ourselves, our relationships, and our environment. This course explores the impact our lifestyle choices have on the world.

Join Prairiewoods and the Nature Center for a six-week discussion course that introduces various aspects of simple living. Begin with a free, no-obligation preview discussion of simplicity principles and choices on Tuesday, Jan. 5, 6:30-7:30 PM at Prairiewoods Spirituality Center, 120 East Boyson Road, Hiawatha.

Following the introductory session, small group discussions will occur on Tuesday, Jan. 12 & 19 (at Prairiewoods) and Jan. 26, Feb. 2 & 9 (at ICNC) at 6:30 PM. Discussions will be based on readings featuring these subjects: *The Meaning of Simplicity*, *Living More with Less*, *Making a Living, Do You Have the Time?*; and, *Living Simply and Sustainably*.

Call the Nature Center for more information. *Participation in the series requires a \$30 fee for the discussion book.*

### **Oh, How Many Feet You Meet! for Preschoolers and Parents**

***Tuesday, Jan. 12, 9:30-10:30 AM***

Listen to a story about feet and make a tracking craft. Study animal mounts to learn how a critter’s paw can help it move around, eat and make a home. Go out on a tracking hike to discover how many feet you really meet near Indian Creek. *M Child: \$4, NM Child: \$4, Parents: Free.*

### **ICNC Guild’s Annual Luncheon and Meeting**

***Thursday, Jan. 14, 11:30 AM***

Current, past and potential Guild members are invited to enjoy a potluck lunch to celebrate the past year’s accomplishments. Bring a dish to share and your table service. Meeting will follow lunch.

### **Beekeeping Class, Session I**

***Thursday, Jan. 21, 7 PM***

First in a series of eight classes for the beginning beekeeper and beekeeping hobbyist. In Session I learn about the equipment and materials needed for beekeeping. Cover the essentials for a functioning hive, total costs, assembly of hive body and frames, clothing and ordering equipment. *Series Fee: M: \$50, NM: \$80. Couples may attend for one fee.*

### **Toddler Tracks:**

#### **Winter Wildlife**

***Saturday, Jan. 23, 10 AM–Noon***

What do wild animals do during the winter? Explore the wonderful world of winter wildlife through a morning of self-guided interactive play with your toddler. Feel fuzzy furs, hop like a hare, listen to a story and much more. Bundle up to go on a naturalist-led hike, discovering signs

of animals on the trails. *Activities will be repeated, so come and go as it works best for you and your toddler! M Child: \$4, NM Child: \$5, Parents: Free.*

### **Green and Simple: Backyard Food Production**

***Saturday, Jan. 23, 2 PM***

Chickens are fascinating animals that can be raised in a city to produce home grown eggs. Towns across the United States are altering ordinances to allow homeowners to keep a few hens in their backyard gardens. Join Curt McCoskey for a virtual tour of Iowa's renowned Murray McMurray Hatchery. Learn which breeds are best suited for urban egg production and discuss chicken housing and husbandry with Mr. McCoskey and members of Cedar Rapids Citizens for the Legalization of Urban Chickens (CLUC). *M: \$3, NM: \$5.*

### **ICNC Annual Meeting**

***Tuesday, Jan. 26, 4:30 PM***

All Nature Center members are cordially invited to attend this review of 2009.

### **Night Walk: The Moon After Yule**

***Friday, Jan. 29, 7 PM***

Join naturalists for a series of winter evening walks featuring sensations of the night: the sky, sounds, and plant and animal adaptations. January's full moon walk will feature the brightness of the evening reflected off the cover of snow. We will listen for the subtle sounds of night stirrings and share lunar stories. Dress warmly for these walks on Nature Center trails. We have an indoor alternative in case of cloudy skies. *M Adult: \$3, NM Adult: \$4, Children: \$1.*

### **Third Annual Paddle Day**

***Saturday, Jan. 30, 1 PM***

Sticks-in-the-Water Paddle Club, Seatasea Watersports and Indian Creek Nature Center invite novice and experienced paddlers to discover great spots to paddle in Eastern Iowa and within the metro area. A series of speakers and paddling displays will cover places to go, paddling, fishing, equipment, and more. A list of speakers and details will be available at [www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org](http://www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org) or call the Center. *M: \$7, NM: \$10.*

### **Fossil Fun for Preschoolers and Parents**

***Saturday, Feb. 6, 10-11 AM, OR Tuesday, Feb. 9, 9:30-10:30 AM***

Ancient creatures attract the attention of nearly every child. Come learn about the dinosaurs that once roamed the planet. Discover what animals swam the seas of Iowa by studying the Nature Center's fossil collection. *M Child: \$4, NM Child: \$5, Parents: Free.*

### **Green and Simple: Rain Barrel Building Workshop**

***Saturday, Feb. 6, 1 PM***

EVERY GALLON COUNTS! Capture your home roof runoff and keep it from entering the local creek by converting a recycled, blue 55-gallon drum into a rain barrel. The resulting free water supply can be used for gardening and other yard projects. Master Gardener Deb Walser will lead this workshop. **Register by 4 PM on Friday, Jan. 29.** *M: \$40; NM: \$50. Cost includes a materials fee.*

**Echoes of Iowa's Sloths**  
**Saturday, Feb. 13, 2 PM**

Ground sloths may be extinct but they aren't dead. The footsteps of these recently departed elephant-sized Ice Age giants continue to echo through Iowa's woodlands with important implications for today and the future. David Brenzel, former curator at the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History and co-principle investigator on the Tarkio Valley Sloth Project, (<http://slothcentral.com>) will discuss the excavation to recover the only Jefferson's sloth family ever discovered, including the most complete adult and second-most complete juvenile of the species ever found, and research to-date. *M: \$3, NM: \$4.*

**Presidents' Day Holiday**

**Monday, Feb. 15** the Nature Center's buildings will be closed.

**Night Walk:**  
**Waxing Crescent Moon**  
**Friday, Feb. 19, 7 PM**

Do people really garden, hunt, or fish by the phases of the moon? Find out as we experience the night on a waxing crescent moon. Learn how the moon "phases" we see are caused by the moon moving around the earth. Dress warmly for this walk. We have an indoor alternative in case of inclement weather. *M: \$3, NM: \$4, Children: \$1.*

**Green Gems Walk:**  
**Discover Věčný Woods**  
**Sunday, Feb. 21, 2 PM**

Towering walnut trees and impressive oaks cast long shadows across the floor of this beautiful winter woodland. Join us for a simple winter stroll through this newly protected natural area. Warm clothing and boots recommended. Call 362-0664 for directions on where to meet and park. *M: \$3, NM: \$4.*

**Bug Academy**  
**Saturday, Feb. 27, 1 PM**

Joe Zito, amateur entomologist, will lead a presentation on the ways insects survive the winter and deal with cold. Adults and children 8 and older are invited to learn about insect migration, galls, and other tricks to survive Iowa's cold. Bring outdoor clothes for a hike to find over-wintering insects and active winter stoneflies and craneflies and snow fleas. Learn about future Bug Academy adventures!  
*M: \$5, NM: \$8.*

**Annual Maple Syrup Festival**  
**Saturday, Mar. 6-Sunday, Mar. 7**  
**8:30 AM-12:30 PM**

Warming weather is causing maple sap to rise. Celebrate this early sign of spring at our Maple Syrup Festival! Enjoy pancakes, sausage, real Nature Center maple syrup, live music, and syruping demonstrations. *Advance Tickets: Adults: \$6.50, Children 3-12 yrs: \$3.50. At-the-door tickets cost an extra \$.50 each. Age 2 & Under: Free.*