



# Leaflet

The Newsletter of Fontenelle Forest | [fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org)

Autumn 2018

A photograph of a wooden boardwalk winding through a forest with vibrant autumn foliage. The ground is covered in fallen leaves, and the trees are filled with orange, yellow, and red leaves. In the distance, a group of people, including children and adults, are walking along the boardwalk. The scene is bright and colorful, capturing the essence of a fall day in a park.

# The *Volunteer* Issue

Photo by Maureen Hoskinson



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## Fontenelle Forest

1111 Bellevue Blvd North  
Bellevue, NE 68005  
(402) 731-3140  
[fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org)

# The history of the Forest comes alive with the dedication from one volunteer in particular

I recently had this special privilege of gathering, thanking, acknowledging, and connecting with volunteers that I don't always cross paths with, some from as far away as 100 miles. It strikes me deeply to see the passion and commitment these members of our community exhibit tirelessly and without fanfare. In 2017 over 200 volunteers contributed nearly 7,000 hours of time to the Forest. That deserves to be celebrated. This edition of the Leaflet is dedicated to our volunteers. Fontenelle Forest could not operate without the help of people just like you.



Catherine Kuper is among those special people that give their time and talent joyfully. Her passion for interpretation inspired her to dedicate her time in the archives room. She often emails golden tidbits from history to our whole staff. I've learned a lot from Catherine.

The Baright Gallery Series gives us the opportunity to publicly display the trove of treasures being discovered in Forest archives. The current exhibit, *Nebraska Phase*

*People: The Archaeological Work of Robert F. Gilder*, reflects Catherine's archival work. Now, I invite you to enjoy this wonderful volunteer's research.

Cheers!

*Merica Whitehall, Executive Director, Fontenelle Forest*

*The following is an excerpt from a speech Catherine Kuper gave to open the archaeological exhibition:*

Have you ever had someone say to you, "Where is home?" Your response might be the naming of a city or state which is a combination of houses, stores, streets, schools, churches, etc., that provide the fabric of life for those of us who live here along the Missouri River in 2018.

Another group of people lived here from 1000 A.D. to 1400 A.D. and called these ridges, ravines, and wetlands home.

Dr. Mitchell is an Elder of the Omaha Nation, retiring from Creighton University where he taught Native American Studies and is the great great great grandson of Chief Big Elk. Dr. Mitchell blessed the artifacts and said a prayer to open the exhibition.



They lived here for approximately 400 years very successfully. Their needs for food, water, and shelter, were met remarkably well. Their ingenuity is demonstrated in their tools for hunting, farming, and fishing.

They used all the parts of an animal for a wide variety of household goods and for clothing. They found materials from Earth like clay, granite, chert, and used them to construct cooking utensils like knives and scrapers for processing game. They preserved and stored food for use over long, cold winters.

They built lodges from natural materials they found in this area and were insulated enough to protect them from winter cold and summer heat.

How do we know about these people and their successful life here almost a thousand years ago as they left no written history? We know it through the observations and curiosity of a gentleman who walked these same ridges, ravines and wetlands at the turn of the 20th century. Robert Fletcher Gilder, a newspaperman by trade, had two interesting hobbies, painting and archeology. Robert Gilder had all the skills and intuitions he needed to be a very good amateur archaeologist.

My favorite poet, Mary Oliver has a poem entitled, *Instructions for Living a Life*. It is very simple: Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it.

We hope you enjoy your time with these artifacts and that they might leave you wondering about their lives and your life and the connection between the two.

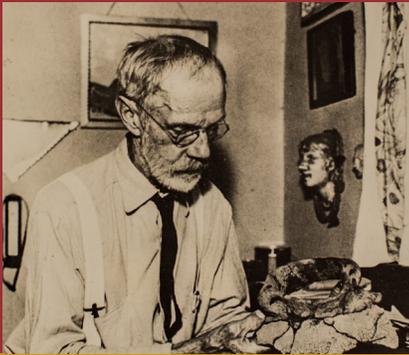
*Catherine Kuper, volunteer archivist*

**\*Read the complete article including more about archaeologist Robert Gilder and how Fontenelle Forest staff came to find these artifacts at [fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org)**

# Upcoming Highlights

## Fall in love with the Forest this Autumn

We have some cool programming this chilly Fall weather, some back by popular demand, some new and exciting.



### ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURES CONTINUE THROUGH 2018

On display through December 2018, these artifacts have not been seen since they were unearthed here 100 years ago.

Upcoming lectures and programs focus on the life of Nebraska Phase Culture and the archaeologist Robert Gilder. See the calendar on the back pages of the Leaflet to see all upcoming lectures.

All programs are free for members unless otherwise specified.

**THIS EXHIBITION AND LECTURE SERIES IS SPONSORED IN PART BY:**



NEBRASKA CULTURAL ENDOWMENT  
*Arts + Humanities*  
LIVELIHOOD



HUMANITIES NEBRASKA

*Friends,  
Fireside,  
and the  
Forest*

FONTENELLE FOREST



### JOIN THE FONTENELLE FOREST GUILD FOR 2019

#### ENJOY COCKTAILS, SHOPPING, AND JOIN THE GUILD NOV. 15!

Shop for unique gifts from local vendors and boutiques, including jewelry, books, and more. Enjoy food, drinks, shopping, and learn more about how you can join the Guild and contribute to the success of Fontenelle Forest.

The Fontenelle Forest Guild is a volunteer group dedicated to preserving Fontenelle Forest's properties and promoting its initiatives. The Guild coordinates our principal yearly fundraising event Feather Our Nest and is responsible for raising over \$200,000 to support our education, conservation and recreational programs in 2018.

Registration is required.  
\$25 per person.

#GIVING TUESDAY



### GIVING TUESDAY PROVIDES A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THE GIFT OF THE FOREST

#### NOVEMBER 27 KICKS OFF THE BEGINNING OF GIVING SEASON

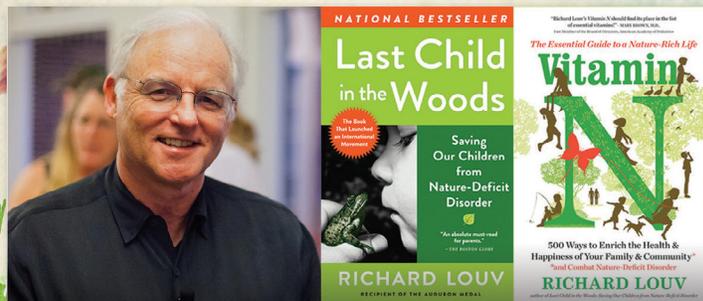
In a #GivingTuesday first for Fontenelle Forest, all donations up to \$7,500 will be matched by the Fontenelle Forest Guild and Board! This year, donate a family membership to someone who is unable to purchase one. Partner organizations will help us distribute memberships to low-income families. With the match, donating one means you are responsible for two families getting the opportunity to enjoy the Forest through the seasons.

Throughout the day of November 27, we will ask you to share our appeals on social media, emails, and links to donate a membership.

Go to [fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org) to learn more and to donate November 27.

# Fontenelle Forest Presents: LEADING A NATURE-RICH LIFE

Featuring Guest Speaker  
Best-Selling Author Richard Louv



FONTENELLE FOREST

## 'Leading a Nature-Rich Life' Luncheon is first of its kind for the Forest

Join us for Leading a Nature-Rich Life featuring the best-selling author of *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv November 7, 2018, at the Beardmore Event Center of Bellevue from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. His work has inspired the international movement to cure "nature deficit disorder."

This luncheon will lead the way in our region for parents, teachers, health professionals, and anyone interested in healthy living to enthusiastically join in the movement to encourage interaction with nature and the benefits of leading a nature-rich life.

Louv's nine books have been translated into 13 languages, published in 17 countries, and have helped launch an international movement to connect children and their families to nature. There will be a question and answer session and book signing following Mr. Louv's presentation.

Books will be available for purchase at the event and at the Fontenelle Forest gift shop.

**Tickets are \$75 each and \$800 for a full table. Call or go to [fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org) to reserve a ticket!**

Richard Louv's *Vitamin N* is for sale in our gift shop and includes 500 activities you can participate in to satisfy the human need for Vitamin N so you are sure to find some inspiration for yourself, your family, your nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and friends.

**THIS LUNCHEON IS SPONSORED IN PART BY:**

Creighton  
UNIVERSITY

Children's  
HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER

# Raptor Recovery

## Bald Eagle moves to Raptor Woodland Refuge after surviving a gun shot wound

“Good morning, Fisher! Are you hungry today?” said Betsy Finch, manager of Fontenelle Forest’s Raptor Recovery program, opening the door to one Bald Eagle’s enclosure with a card marked “Fisher”.

There are over a dozen convalescing raptors, or birds of prey, in this small raptor recovery clinic inside an unassuming building on the farmed plains of eastern Nebraska. Finch was not speaking to the humans in the room, but to Fisher, an adult Bald Eagle who recently moved from the recovery center to begin his new life at the Raptor Woodland Refuge.

**Now, Fisher can reach the next generation of bird lovers and conservationists, giving his life incredible purpose.**

*Denise Lewis, Director of Raptor Recovery*

Fisher is the highly-anticipated Bald Eagle ambassador who moved into a brand new mew, or enclosure, built with a donation from Grammy Award-winning founder of Mannheim Steamroller Chip Davis.

“The American Bald Eagle, our national bird, is such a majestic symbol of our country. Fisher, our rescue eagle, was in need of help. I’m very happy to help

Fontenelle Forest and their Raptor Recovery Program by providing funds for the special eagle mew so he is protected the rest of his life,” said Chip Davis.

With a lifespan in captivity of 50+ years, Fisher could be spending the next several decades teaching visitors from all over about the life, cultural significance, and history of the Bald Eagle.

This Bald Eagle is one of more than a dozen birds of prey at Fontenelle Forest who live in the refuge. These hawks, falcons, owls, vultures and others were unable to be released back to the wild due to their injuries. The vast majority of these birds were rescued in Nebraska and rehabilitated at our recovery center. They now serve as educational ambassadors to the public, on display seven hours per day, allowing people discover a love and greater understanding of the importance of these animals to the ecosystem.

“I am excited to invite the community back to see the crowning jewel of Raptor Woodland Refuge,” said Merica Whitehall, executive director. “Visitors will have the unique opportunity to observe and learn from Fisher up close and ultimately via webcam. Through new educational programs and experiences, our guests will also build a new understanding of the Bald Eagle and why they are so important to protect.”

## The Chip Davis Eagle Mew construction timeline:





**FISHER THE BALD EAGLE SPENT FOUR MONTHS RECOVERING FROM A GUN SHOT WOUND**

Fisher weighs about eight pounds which is typical of a male Bald Eagle, who are smaller than females. When he arrived at Fontenelle Forest’s Raptor Recovery program in March, he weighed a dangerously low five pounds.

That is because this Bald Eagle had been shot. No one knew how long he was laying there, unable to eat.

In the 42 years of treating injured or orphaned raptors from across the state, the recovery center is seeing more birds in recent months than ever before. Whether it be a rash of Eagles with lead poisoning from eating meat filled with lead shot, or Turkey Vultures abandoned by parents, or Eastern Screech Owls blown from their tree in a storm, this year Fontenelle Forest expects to break last year’s record of 617 birds of prey.

“He had been shot in the left wing and his bones were exposed with bullet fragments in him,” Betsy Finch, manager of Fontenelle Forest’s Raptor Recovery

Program said. “We knew we had to get the tip of his wing amputated in order for him to survive. Those bones were dead, so he was at great risk for an infection spreading down the wing.”

As Fisher recovered from surgery, his personality began to come out, and his calm temperament made him the perfect candidate to live on display at Fontenelle Forest.

“We work with so many injured eagles at our Raptor Recovery Center that the public never get to see,” said Denise Lewis, Director of Fontenelle Forest’s Raptor Recovery Program. “Now, Fisher can reach the next generation of bird lovers and conservationists, giving his life incredible purpose.”

- Molly Mullen, Manager of Marketing and Events

**The Raptor Woodland Refuge is open to the public daily from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., with docents available Wednesdays and Saturdays.**



## Land Stewardship

# The Forest thrives due to volunteer dedication

Behind: Volunteers help with conducting prescribed fire, with the proper certification. There is no season when volunteers aren't essential to the management of the Forest.



Above: Volunteers gather seed for restoration work.  
Right: Winter means moving snow, tons of it. Volunteers shovel, salt, and clear snow in the parking lot, plaza, and the Riverview Boardwalk, to name a few spots.



# Those who donate time and labor are a force behind our forest management

Volunteers are what keep Fontenelle Forest going. From our board of directors, to our corporate work groups, we thrive because of the unpaid dedication of so many.

I have the privilege of working with our land stewards, conservation interns, and prescribed fire crew, and I am so very thankful to those who have given their blood, sweat and tears to the care of the forest over the history of the organization!

Our staff relies heavily on the hard work of our generous volunteers to maintain trails, do our restoration work, and help with landscaping and conducting prescribed fires. Without them, we would not have the work capacity to take care of the land.

This fantastic work force helps pick up trash, weed-whip and clip trails, haul brush, hack-and-squirt, brush cut, remove snow, leaf blow the boardwalks, collect and plant seeds, and serve on our prescribed fire crew.

Their time and effort are invaluable. So is their passion for Fontenelle. What better outreach about the work

A VOLUNTEER INTERN ASSISTS WITH BRUSH CUTTING



VOLUNTEER BRUSH PILING ON A COLD DAY ON SETTLER'S TRAIL

we do than by those who do it!

Tuesdays and Thursdays and our Saturday workdays are some of my favorite days because I get to work with this amazing group of people. I've gotten to know them by working side-by-side with them, and best of all, I have learned from each and every one.

I'm grateful for our volunteers, past and present and I look forward to meeting our future volunteers!

- Michelle Foss, Interim Director of Stewardship and Research

To join our dedicated team of volunteers, go to our website and click SUPPORT, and fill out the Land Management contact form. You can also join us at our monthly work days. Our next is November 3, and December 8, 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Left: You can see signs of volunteer work in the Forest - like the stairs they built on Hickory Trail.



# Lecture series about NEBRASKA PHASE PEOPLE AND THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK OF ROBERT F. GILDER

On display through December, 2018, these artifacts have not been seen since they were unearthed here nearly 100 years ago. See upcoming lectures and programs about the life of Nebraska Phase Culture and learn more about the archaeologist Robert Gilder.

**All programs are free for members unless otherwise specified**



How did people survive and thrive in the Forest nearly 1,000 years ago?

**October 28 at 2 p.m. | The Archaeological Work of Robert Gilder**

Dr. Alan Osborn is the Curator of Anthropology and Director of the Nebraska Archaeological Survey at the University of Nebraska State Museum. Dr. Osborn will speak about the methods Gilder used to expose large areas of ancient communities as his methods for Plains archaeology have been used in the 100 years since. He will also speak about what made Gilder's archaeology unique and forward-thinking in terms of items collected. **Limited space. Register at [fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org)**

**November 3 at 2 p.m. | Symbology, Artwork, and Creation in the Lakota Tradition**

Utilizing specific numbers and color concepts, we will see how symbology is manifested in the artwork of the plains. Steve Tamayo will also explain how the manifestation of creation

is intertwined into Lakota gender and seasonal specific games. Steve Tamayo learned the traditional arts under Howard Wolf. Currently, he leads study and service groups on the Reservation and travels to museums and colleges throughout the country, including the Smithsonian's National Museum of the Native American where his most recent work is centered on traditional Native games and toys at the Smithsonian. **Space is limited. Please register at [fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org)**

**November 13 at 10:00 a.m. | Seniors Understanding Nature: Archaeology**

Catherine Kuper, archivist at Fontenelle Forest, and driving force behind the Nebraska Phase People archaeological exhibit, will speaking about NE Phase People through the Archaeological work of Robert Gilder, and what fascinating tidbits didn't make it in to the exhibition. **For senior citizens. Space is limited. Please register at [fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org) or call 402.731.3140.**

**November 24 at 2 p.m. | The Daily Life of Nebraska Phase People**

Hunting, fishing, gathering and horticulture – explore the seasonal rounds of activities of the people living here in the Forest 600-800 years ago. Linda Plock is an archaeological technician at the National Park Service in Lincoln, Nebraska, and has been interested in the Nebraska Phase culture for decades. **Space is limited. Register at [fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org)**

**Nov. 17 at 2 p.m. | Robert Gilder's Local Life and Legacy**

Ben Justman has been the executive director at the Sarpy County Museum for the past seven years. He will explore 'the gaunt looking man beyond the signature in the lower corner of his paintings.' In keeping with his headstone inscription of "artist, archaeologist, friend," Justman will address the question, "who was Robert Gilder?" As dynamic as he was, the answer is rather detailed... **Space is limited. Please register at [fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org) December 15 at 2 p.m.**

**"The Loess Man: A Giant or Folklore?"**

**A gentleman's conversation between a tribal traditionalist and an anthropologist**

Join Rob Bozell and Taylor Keen as they debate the validity of The Loess Man, a turn-of-the-century theory that famed local archaeologist Robert F. Gilder coined. Learn why archaeologists debunked this theory of a missing link between man and primate found in Nebraska, and why a tribal traditionalist thinks there is more to the story.

Taylor Keen is a teacher, community builder, and Native American thought leader based out of Omaha, Nebraska. He is a member of the Omaha Tribe and the Cherokee Nation, attended Dartmouth College (BA) and Harvard University (Masters of Public Policy, MBA), and enjoyed a successful stint in corporate America before returning to Nebraska to teach entrepreneurship and management at Creighton University. Rob Bozell is the Nebraska State Archeologist with 'History Nebraska.' His full bio can be found on the reverse side of this flyer. **Space is limited. Please register at [fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org)**

FONTENELLE  FOREST BARIGHT GALLERY ARTIST SERIES

THIS EXHIBITION AND LECTURE SERIES IS SPONSORED IN PART BY:



NEBRASKA CULTURAL ENDOWMENT  
Arts + Humanities  
LIVELIHOOD



HUMANITIES NEBRASKA



Witches, Wizards and Muggles alike are invited to experience the magic of Fontenelle Forest!

Visit our Owls and other raptors, enjoy Potter themed crafts, learn about the Care of Magical Creatures and head out on our Boardwalk for a Horcrux Hunt!

# A Night at the Forbidden Forest



AGES 21+ | 6-9 PM, NOV 9 \$25 FOR MEMBERS | \$35 FOR NONMEMBERS

This adults-only event will feature a Potter Pub Quiz and a costume contest with magical prizes. You receive a drink ticket with admission!

# A Holiday at Hogwarts



ALL AGES | 12-3 PM, NOV 10  
\$15 FOR MEMBERS | \$25 FOR NONMEMBERS

VIP TICKETS JUST \$5 MORE - 100 PEOPLE MAX  
30-MINUTE EARLY ENTRY AND CHOCOLATE FROG

Meet the Creighton Quidditch team, visit the snack trolley, make tons of crafts, and finish the day with a costume parade!

**REGISTER EARLY AT [FONTENELLEFOREST.ORG](http://fontenelleforest.org)**

Hot dogs and chips, as well as a special Coneflower Creamery treat, will be provided at an additional cost.

# Education



## Education volunteers are the heartbeat of our programs

Have you ever attended a Family Sundays at The Forest or a Dirt Time? Perhaps you have come for a writing hike, a wildflower hike, or a constellation walk and viewing, or maybe you are one of the yogis that join us on Sundays, Wednesdays, or both? All of these programs have one very important thing in common.

They are all led by our amazing volunteers.

Volunteers may be found at a table of hands on artifacts, helping with a summer camp, or making our special events magical. They are the hardworking people who create and present programs like Pond Dipping and the Dream Catcher workshops.

Educatin volunteers are the dedicated people who offer monthly night hikes for 15 and up, Dirt Time adventures for families of all ages, and informative History Hikes exploring local history, as well as the dedicated individual who brings the health benefits and

**Please come say hi to the volunteers the next time you see them and don't forget to take a look at the many programs they offer and join them for a few.**

*Jamie Vann, Naturalist at Fontenelle Forest who has coordinated education volunteers for xx years.*

peace of yoga twice a week and Shrinrin Yoku, forest therapy walks, several times each quarter.

These dedicated volunteers provide exciting new programming and perennial favorites.

Please say hi to the volunteers the next time you see them and don't forget to take a look at the many programs they offer and join them for a few. Be sure to check our website because not all of the programs are in the Leaflet and sometimes new programs get added.



Top: Judy Bell leads a group on a history hike down History Trail. Each week she uncovers a different Forest history topic.

Above: Bob Wells has an important job as a TN. He is our Raptor Woodland Refuge docent, answering the public's questions about birds.

## Are you interested in volunteering in education at the Forest?

### TEACHER NATURALISTS

Teacher Naturalists are 18 and up. They commit to attend at least 6 training meetings each year, lead/co-lead 2 programs each year, and volunteer to help with 1 or more special events each year. Before leading a program we ask them to shadow/co-lead at least 3 programs and attend a TN 101 training day.

### TEEN NATURALIST TRAINEES (TNT)

The mission of Fontenelle Forest's Teen Naturalist Trainee program is to engage teens in learning, leadership, and service within the natural world. TNTs are from 13 to 19, usually in high school or middle school for some of the younger TNTs. We ask TNTs to attend 6 training meetings per year and volunteer at least 10 hours per year.

Please contact [jvann@fontenelleforest.org](mailto:jvann@fontenelleforest.org) if you have questions about joining the TN program, or go to [fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org) and click support to fill out an application.

*Jamie Vann, Naturalist*

# Forest News

## A look back at a busy Summer

**MILITARY FAMILY WEEKEND** Fontenelle Forest offered its best and favorite programs all weekend for active and retired military families to enjoy free of charge. Thank you to Coneflower Creamery, who made a special Fontenelle Forest flavor of ice cream for the occasion, the band Ground Zero for invigorating visitors old and young with music, as well as the volunteers who helped make this weekend special.

**SUMMER CAMPS** Adventures planned (and unplanned) surprised 245 campers this summer. Many noted that the "floating boardwalk" was their favorite part of camp. The Wetlands Gifford Memorial Boardwalk began floating in the marsh after the area flooded. With a generous donation, 44 children were able to attend camp with scholarships. Thank you not only to our donor, but to Completely KIDS and North Star, two local nonprofits whose students made each camp even more special.

**RAPTOR TRAINING IN SCOTTSBLUFF** Western Nebraska is always an area where our Raptor Recovery team is looking for more volunteer transporters. In August, 30 people camp to join the team and learn about setting broken legs and wings, giving medication, and safely transporting the birds. Transporters are a key part of our recovery program. When someone calls our hotline, the transporter picks up the birds and brings it to our recovery center.



**TRAIL REPAIR ASSESSMENT** Fontenelle Forest initiated a massive trail restoration project, with the help of hundreds of local donors. Ridge, Linden, Hackberry, and Hawthorn Trails from Childs Hollow were the first of the repairs. Between the support Fontenelle Forest saw with 2017's Omaha Gives, and a direct mail campaign, along with grant funding from the Peter Kiewit Foundation and Sherwood Foundation, proved that the local community values these trails and supports their restoration.

**SHRINRIN YOKU** Have you ever heard of Forest Bathing? AFNT, Guide in Training, Julie Mckeone has added Shrinrin Yoku (translated to Forest Bathing) on top of her volunteer yoga instructing. Julie began leading small groups in this Japanese practice this summer, and has opened up public Forest Bathing walks at Neale Woods and Camp Brewster. Check our website for upcoming walks, and experience the Forest like you never have before.





FONTENELLE  FOREST

# Winter Break Camps

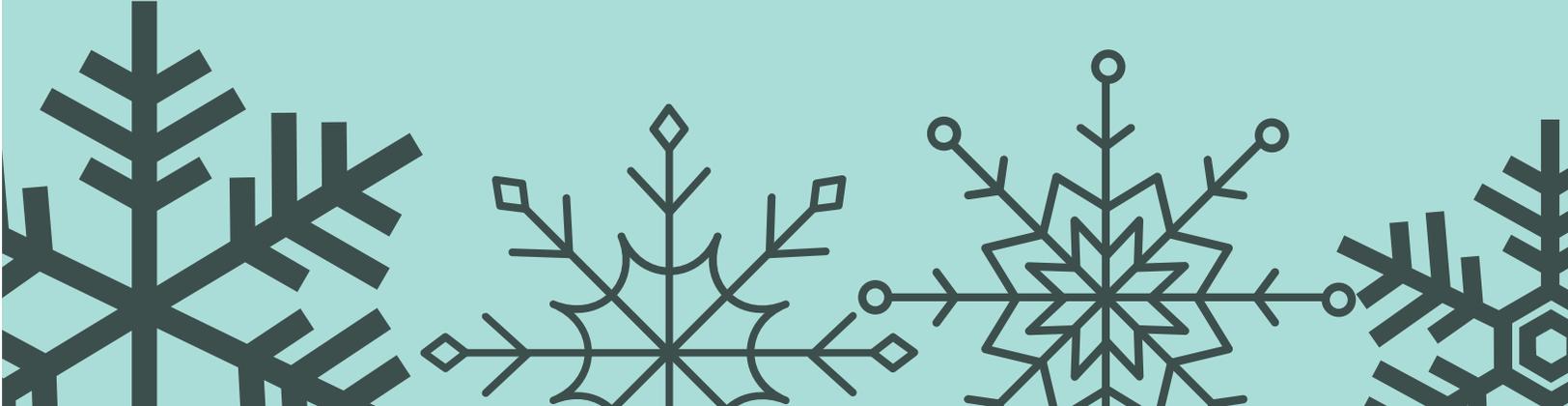
JOIN US THIS WINTER TO EXPERIENCE FONTENELLE FOREST ON AND OFF TRAILS. HIKE, EXPLORE, DISCOVER, PLAY GAMES, MAKE CRAFTS, AND SO MUCH MORE.

**Sign up for one day camp ,or try them all!**

DECEMBER 27 AND 28, JANUARY 2, 3, AND 4  
9AM TO 3PM, DROP-OFF AT 8:30AM

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS OCTOBER 12  
MEMBERS \$45, NON-MEMBERS \$50 **DAILY**

[FONTENELLEFOREST.ORG](http://fontenelleforest.org)



# Friends, Fireside, and the Forest

**NOVEMBER 15, 5:30-8:30 P.M.**

**JOIN THE FONTENELLE FOREST  
GUILD FOR FRIENDS, FIRESIDE, AND  
THE FOREST, A UNIQUE HOLIDAY  
SHOPPING EXPERIENCE.**

**Food and cocktails provided by Patricia  
Catering to make your shopping experience  
even more enjoyable.**

**\$25 per person. Visit [fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org) to  
purchase your tickets now.**

**Local vendors include India Hicks, Norwex,  
Stella & Dot, Brittany Dupree, Grace Gaard,  
She.la, and more. Follow updates on  
Facebook to see who else will be joining us!**



# *Volunteer* **AT THE FOREST**

Our dedicated volunteers are vital to our ongoing educational programs, land stewardship, special events, administration, and many other areas.

When you give your time, you are strengthening our ability to preserve historically and ecologically significant land while educating the public about our natural world. We welcome volunteers of all backgrounds and experience levels.

Interested in volunteering? Click the links below. If you need assistance, please email [info@fontenelleforest.org](mailto:info@fontenelleforest.org) or go to [fontenelleforest.org/support](https://fontenelleforest.org/support) to fill out a form to volunteer in the following areas:

The Fontenelle Forest Guild  
Administration  
Raptor Recovery  
Land Stewardship  
Teacher Naturalists  
Teen Naturalist Trainee  
Building Maintenance  
Apple Pies

# Regular Programming



## Archaeology Lectures

Some of the most engaged minds in local archaeology today, upcoming lectures and programs cover the life of Nebraska Phase Culture and learn more about the archaeologist Robert Gilder. Check [fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org) for dates and times of upcoming lectures.



## Mud Pies

This drop-in-and-play program encourages interaction between adult and child. Each week, a natural science topic is explored through activities, free play, and a guided walk. Discover the joy of sharing nature with your child!



## Land Stewardship Volunteer Work Day

The volunteer Land Stewardship crew meets on selected Saturday mornings. Lunch and camaraderie are provided! Anyone is welcome to join, even if it's just one time. Bring the family and get some hard work done with us. Bring good work shoes and gloves and plenty of water.



## Seniors Understanding Nature (SUN)

Many seniors grew up in a time when nature was a big part of everyday life. SUN programs enhance that experience. Join us to learn about a different topic every month. Refreshments are served for the presentation, and a nature walk follows for all who are interested.



## Yoga in the Forest (indoors in winter)

Join us for an hour-long Vinyasa style yoga class, surrounded by nature, designed to de-stress and relax you. This class is for all levels, from beginner to experienced, and will feature the sounds of the forest as your soundtrack. This class is in a forest canopy room in cold weather.

**Select Saturdays**  
Recommended for adults  
**\*UNTIL DEC 15**  
GET TICKETS, TIMES, AND TOPICS AT [FONTENELLEFOREST.ORG](http://fontenelleforest.org)

**Mondays-  
Thursdays**  
9:30 - 11:30 AM  
Ages 5 & younger

**November 3  
December 9**  
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

**2nd Tuesday  
of Each Month**  
9:45 - 11:30 AM

**Sunday  
Mornings**  
9:00 - 10:30 AM  
& **Wednesday  
Evenings**  
6:00 - 7:00 PM

# Calendar Highlights

**November 2**

**And**

**December 14**

7-9 P.M.

AT NEALE  
WOODS

## Constellation Walk

Join us at Neale Woods for an easy walk in the twilight then a viewing of the stars and constellations when darkness falls. Bring binoculars to view deep sky objects as desired. PROGRAM WILL BE CANCELED IF SKY IS MORE THAN 25% CLOUDY.

**November 3**

1-2 P.M.

AT THE  
WETLANDS  
LEARNING  
CENTER

## Autumn Hike

Join us at the Wetlands for a gentle hike to look for signs of the fall. Please dress for the weather and bring water. This program is free for members or with daily admission.

**November  
10**

1 P.M. AT  
CAMP  
BREWSTER

**December  
15**

1 P.M. AT  
NEALE WOODS

## Forest Therapy Walks

Try out Shrinrin Yoku (Forest Bathing). Slow walking will connect you to the forest for enhanced health, wellness, and happiness. This is a gentle practice for all abilities. Dress for the weather, trails, and insects, and bring water. Max of 10 people per walk. Register at [fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org).

**November 9**

6-9 P.M.

AT THE  
NATURE  
CENTER  
\*21 AND OVER

## A Night at the Forbidden Forest

Unleash your inner child and immerse yourself in the magic of the Forest!

Journey out into our Forbidden Forest for a Horcrux hunt, or take your O.W.L.s via our Pub Quiz designed to challenge even the most knowledgeable witch or wizard. You will receive a drink ticket with admission to the event, and there will be owls to meet, wands to be chosen, and so much more!

Coneflower Creamery will sell a delicious treat and hot dogs and chips will be available at an additional cost.

Tickets are \$25 for members, and \$35 for non-members. Get your tickets early at [fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org).

**November 3**

2-4 P.M.

AT THE  
NATURE  
CENTER

## Symbology, Artwork, and Creation in the Lakota Tradition

Utilizing specific numbers and color concepts, we will see how symbology is manifested in the artwork of the plains. Steve Tamayo will also explain how the manifestation of creation is intertwined into Lakota gender and seasonal specific games.

**November 7**

11:00 A.M.

- 1:00 P.M.

AT THE  
BEARDMORE  
EVENT  
CENTER OF  
BELLEVUE

## Leading a Nature-Rich Life Luncheon

Discover how your family and our community can benefit from connecting to nature. Join us for Leading a Nature-Rich Life featuring the best-selling author of *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv. His work inspired the movement to cure "nature deficit disorder." Q&A and book signing to follow after his talk. For more info and to purchase tickets please visit [fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org).

**November**

**10**

12-3 P.M.

AT THE  
NATURE  
CENTER

\*ALL AGES

## A Holiday at Hogwarts

Witches, Wizards and Muggles alike are invited to experience the magic of Fontenelle Forest at our family event A Holiday at Hogwarts. Visit our owls and other raptors, enjoy Potter themed crafts, learn about the Care of Magical Creatures and head out on our Boardwalk for a Horcrux Hunt! Enjoy a special magical concoction by Coneflower Creamery, and meet the Creighton Quidditch team!

Hot dogs and chips will be available at an additional cost. This event is for all ages. Tickets for the event are \$15 for members, and \$25 for non-members.

VIP tickets: \$5 extra — receive early entry to our event at 11:30 a.m. and a Chocolate Frog from Chocolat Abeille!

Get your tickets early at [fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org).

# Calendar Highlights

CHECK OUT EVEN MORE EVENTS  
AT FONTENELLEFOREST.ORG

**November 15**  
5:30 - 8:30 P.M.  
AT THE NATURE  
CENTER

## Friends, Fireside, and the Forest

Join the Fontenelle Forest Guild for an evening of unique holiday shopping, friendship, and fun! Shop in the Nature Center from local vendors and boutiques, including jewelry, books, and more. Enjoy refreshments and learn about joining the Guild and contribute to the success of Fontenelle Forest. Please register at [fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org)

**November 17**  
STARTS AT 6:00  
A.M.  
AT THE  
NATURE  
CENTER

## Hike All Trails Day

Are you an adventurer who wants to see everything in Fontenelle Forest?

By the time you hike all of the trails, it is almost a marathon - 21 miles! There is not a firm finish time as the trail conditions, weather, and stops will make a difference.

Bring a day pack including extra socks, plenty of water, insect repellent, and hearty snacks and lunch.

\* Subject to  
change due to  
weather.

AGES 15  
AND UP

**November 17**  
5-7 P.M.  
AT THE  
NATURE  
CENTER

## Owl Prowl

Join us as we discover the mystery of the forest at night. We will go on a night hike to listen for the resident forest owls, enjoy hot cocoa around the fire pit, and take a close up look at our education owls as we explore the night. Dress warmly! Cost: \$5 for members / \$15 for non-members

**November  
24 and  
December  
29**

9-11 A.M.  
- 3:00 P.M.  
AT THE  
WETLANDS  
LEARNING  
CENTER

## Dirt Time: A Winter Tracking Adventure

If you've ever wanted to learn to interpret the animal clues around you, this is your opportunity. Come spend time literally in the dirt and gain the skills needed to "read" the forest and its animal inhabitants. All participants will receive a track guide for future use.

Dress for the weather and bring insect repellent, work gloves, and lots of water. There are no bathrooms available. You will get dirty!

**November  
27**  
ALL DAY  
ONLINE GIVING  
EVENT

## #GivingTuesday

This year, we are kicking off Giving Tuesday with a donated memberships campaign. Gift a family membership to those who could not otherwise afford one. There will be a match up to \$7,500 from the Fontenelle Forest Board and Guild so go to [fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org) and donate! Following shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, so consider us for your end-of-year giving.

**December 1**  
5:30-7:30 P.M.  
AT THE  
NATURE  
CENTER

## Winter Wonderland

Walk a trail with plenty of holiday lights for you to get a truly memorable experience this time of year. Meet Santa in the woods and create a lasting holiday memory. Enjoy s'mores, cocoa, crafts, and the Forest after hours to see the lights in their full glow. Cost: \$5 for members / \$15 for non-members

**December 8**  
10:00 A.M.  
- 4:30 P.M.  
AT THE  
NATURE  
CENTER

## Gingerbread

This is the most popular event at Fontenelle Forest year after year so register early. \$15 per house (plus daily admission for non-members). Santa will make a surprise visit in the afternoon!

**December  
14, 15, 16**  
ALL DAY  
EVENT.  
TRAILS WILL  
BE CLOSED  
FOR SAFETY.

## Annual Hunt - TRAILS CLOSED

In 1996 Fontenelle Forest staff, in conjunction with the NGPC and BDTF, established population goals for white-tailed deer to reduce population densities. For more information or to purchase permit to hunt here, contact [info@fontenelleforest.org](mailto:info@fontenelleforest.org).

REMEMBER FONTENELLE FOREST IN YOU YEAR-END GIVING. SINCE 1913 WE PROVIDE EDUCATION, CONSERVATION, AND RECREATION TO FAMILIES ACROSS OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY.

As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, our membership prices are increasing. Buy or renew yours today!