



# Leaflet

Winter 2019:  
Deepening and  
Strengthening  
Community Roots

The Newsletter of Fontenelle Forest

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



From "Strengthening the Circle"  
by Donel Keeler  
Learn more on page 4.



## Contents

Fontenelle Forest's Leaflet  
Winter 2019:  
Deepening and Strengthening  
Community Roots

10



## 11 Summer Camps

Registration begins February 1st

## 12 Feather Our Nest

Save the date for our annual gala  
celebration on Saturday, April 13

## 13 Forest News

An amazing end to 2018

04



## 10 Education

An incredible partnership offers  
immersive Forest education to all  
Western Hills students

8



## 04 Highlights

Upcoming events at the Forest

## 05 New Staff

Meet the newest members of the  
Fontenelle Forest team

## 07 Raptor Recovery

Exciting news about how our Raptor  
Recovery education is spreading

## 08 Stewardship

What does the future hold for  
Camp Wa-kon-da?

7



## 14 Calendar

Select upcoming programs. View the  
complete calendar at [fontenelleforest.org](http://fontenelleforest.org)

## Fontenelle Forest

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



Fontenelle Forest purchased Camp Wa-kon-da January 9, 2019. Executive Director Merica Whitehall and Mid-America Council CEO Chris Mehaffey stand at the Nebraska Title Company.

# Our community roots are growing stronger and wider

2018 was a year of new and deepened relationships in our community. As I reflect on 2018, the path that we set out on promises to lead Fontenelle Forest's service to our community even deeper in 2019.

Fontenelle Forest has been a cornerstone of our community since 1913. Now, more than 100 years later, we continue to add to the value Fontenelle Forest contributes to local life by finding new ways to engage and serve our growing community.

In 2018, the Forest took important steps leading to our growth in 2019. Fontenelle Forest has acquired Camp Wa-kon-da, a 37-acre overnight camping facility, as a result of our fruitful relationship with the Mid-America Council of the Boy Scouts of America that dates back to 1946. Fontenelle Forest's Camp Wa-kon-da will expand the ways that we serve nature lovers of all ages. And as much as ever, we look forward to continuing to serve Scouts long into the future.

The welcoming of Fisher the Bald Eagle and the completion of Raptor Woodland Refuge were major highlights for the Forest in 2018. The work of Raptor Recovery that takes place beyond the physical limits of Raptor Woodland Refuge has been lesser known. Our team plans to change the little known status of Fontenelle Forest's statewide raptor conservation work in 2019 by partnering with the Edgerton

Explorit Center in Auburn, Nebraska.

And finally, with education at the heart of everything we do, it is truly encouraging to see our relationship with Western Hills School grow. This is a beautiful demonstration of Fontenelle Forest's deep commitment to investing in the development, health, and happiness of public school students through Environmental - STEM education. Over the past 10 years, our relationship with Western Hills has grown from only providing field trips at the Forest to providing multiple field and classroom experiences to every student in every grade. It is our mission to educate students to be the environmental stewards of the future.

2018 was a great year. And this year is going to bring even more promise for the long-term sustainability of Fontenelle Forest.

Sincerely,

Merica Whitehall,  
Fontenelle Forest Executive Director

# Upcoming Highlights

## A New Year at the Forest

2019 brings a fresh start with a new art exhibition, summer camp registrations, and Enchanted Forest!



### “STRENGTHENING THE CIRCLE” EXHIBITION

**OPEN THROUGH APRIL, 2019**

Celebrate the contemporary and modern artwork of three First Nations artists, Steven Tamayo, Donel Keeler, and Paul High Horse.

Their work seeks to revitalize current and future generations in ancestral teachings of indigenous people using a variety of mediums, color palettes, and traditions from different Plains tribes.



### SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION BEGINS

**OPENS FEBRUARY 1**

Fontenelle Forest invites you to a summer of discovery and learning in a place where the quiet wild of nature offers an unparalleled opportunity for your child to learn. Registration for our 2019 Nature Discovery Summer Day camps begins on February 1st. Look for a camp catalog in your inbox in January with complete listings of all of this year's exciting opportunities for children of all ages. Space is limited so register early!



### ENCHANTED FOREST CELEBRATES SPRING

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30 1-4 p.m.**

Dress up in your favorite enchanted costume and join us for crafts and activities to spark your children's imaginations, and bring out your inner child. Visit the Mystical Marketplace to trade tokens for special material to create the perfect fairy house or gnome home. Discover our enchanted forest and meet all the forest fairies, gnomes, and woodland creatures that call Fontenelle Forest home.



# Meet Our new staff!

## Some familiar faces and new additions

Fontenelle Forest is proud to have four positions filled permanently with both new and familiar faces. The Land Stewardship team, which oversees more than 2,000 acres of land and the education department which educated more than 40,000 school students each year will have familiar management, with a new position “Properties Superintendent” bringing all departments together.



**Dennis Merkel will start as Fontenelle Forest’s Properties Superintendent mid-January.** A former resident of Bellevue, Dennis comes to us from Angeles National Forest in California where he served as the Supervisory Forestry Technician. He has spent 20 years as a civilian employee with the

Department of Defense, working in locations all over the world. He brings over than 10 years of experience working for the US Fish and Wildlife Service and US Forest Service.

**Michelle Foss has been promoted to Manager for Stewardship and Research.**

Michelle was serving as the Interim Director of Stewardship and Research and has been promoted from her position as Restoration Biologist. Michelle has been with the Forest since 2012, originally an Educator and then a Restoration Biologist. Michelle has been a great example of Fontenelle Forest’s staff committed to the community.



Michelle’s new management functions include: ecological habitat maintenance and restoration; scientific research program management, plan development, and implementation; and, trail maintenance. She will lead a team of staff, volunteers, and interns to advance the environmental health, longevity, safety, and usability of Fontenelle Forest’s natural areas.



**Sally Otis will become the permanent Director of Education at Fontenelle Forest on January 22nd.** Sally has served for five months as the Interim Director of Education.

“Sally has integrated seamlessly into Fontenelle Forest’s culture, established great relationships with the education team and across departments, and demonstrated a passion for environmental education and interpretation,” said Fontenelle Forest executive director Merica Whitehall.

With more than 10 years of experience working in education and a Masters of Arts in Teaching with a focus in Museum Education Program from George Washington University, Sally will lead the team of educators at the Forest to lead facilitate field trips, school programs, summer camps, lectures, and plenty of educational outreach to the community.

**Katie Leware** joined our Education team January 3rd as the Education Assistant. We will also have three new part-time educators: Allison Montgomery, Amber Pearson, and Regina Jeanpierre-Bryant.



**Dan Borgaila is our new Facilities Supervisor.** Dan comes to us from the Mount Crescent Ski Area where he was the head of maintenance for a local outdoor attraction serving tens of thousands of visitors each year in Crescent, Iowa. Dan has been working in maintenance as long as he’s been able, and his skills have

taken him across the country from Colorado Springs, where he was raised, to North Carolina, to Washington State, and eventually to his home state of Iowa, where he now resides with his wife and three children. Dan will be managing all building maintenance for Fontenelle Forest’s properties, and keep our structures safe and open for educational programs and events.

**Find your dream job at Fontenelle Forest at [fontenelleforest.org/careers](https://fontenelleforest.org/careers)**

## Raptor Recovery

# Raptors Rising - the next phase of Fontenelle Forest's Raptor Recovery



Of the 24 Eagles who died after Fontenelle Forest rescued them in 2018, 11 of them died from lead poisoning, and five were illegally shot by guns.

This mature female Bald Eagle was found in March of 2018 and was immediately treated for lead poisoning. With a treatable lead level she received twice daily injections of EDTA , and a month later was ready to go back to the wild. Our partners at Edgerton Explorit Center in Aurora, Nebraska, assisted in the release.

**A** new program to expand Fontenelle Forest's statewide raptor education and collaboration is in the formative stage- Raptors Rising.

The Raptor Recovery program has embarked on an exciting new venture to provide raptor education across the state in partnership with organizations whose missions are similar to ours. It's a step toward becoming a force throughout the state, and ultimately, the region.

The Raptor Recovery program is beginning this initiative with the Edgerton Explorit Center in Aurora, NE. Their science programs reach 30,000 to 40,000 young people annually; they would like to expand into the natural science area- a perfect place for a raptor education sponsorship.

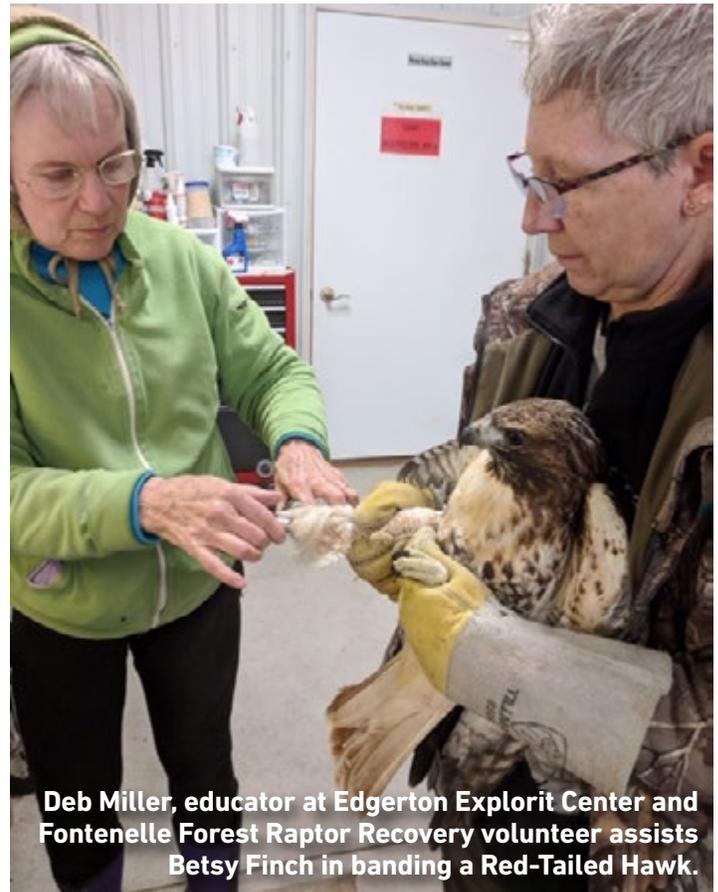
Three non-releasable raptors will be housed at the Edgerton Center; a Swainson's Hawk, an American Kestrel, and an Eastern Screech Owl.

Living quarters are in the planning and construction stages and should be completed by spring. Fontenelle Forest will still provide assistance for housing, training, as the birds would be retained under our current Federal permit.

Edgerton's approved the unique partnership, so where do we go from here?

Enter Deb Miller. Not only is Deb on the staff at Edgerton, she has been on the Raptor Recovery program's volunteer relay system for six years.

Deb expressed interest in learning how to handle raptors for educational programs.



**Deb Miller, educator at Edgerton Explorit Center and Fontenelle Forest Raptor Recovery volunteer assists Betsy Finch in banding a Red-Tailed Hawk.**

After Deb released a raptor at an Aurora program, and showed how excited people are about raptors, and highlighted the value of working with wildlife.

Deb will be the principal staff member at Edgerton to provide care for the birds and to manage the education programs. We are looking forward to the new year and the beginning of an exciting new initiative- Raptors Rising.

- Betsy Finch, Manager of Raptor Rehabilitation



**Mary Molliconi, executive director of the Edgerton Explorit Center released the Bald Eagle back to the wild.**

# Land Stewardship

## Camp Wa-kon-da's future is bright

Michelle Foss highlights the ongoing partnership both as a Scout Leader and Manager of Stewardship and Research at Fontenelle Forest

Fontenelle Forest and local Boy Scouts have a long history. Back in 1919, Harold Gifford, also an original Fontenelle Forest Association board member, opened up his land for Boy Scout camping in what are now the wetlands of Fontenelle Forest. Today, Scouts camping at Camp Wa-kon-da have access to hiking trails and historical areas at Fontenelle Forest. A natural partnership, Fontenelle Forest and Boy Scouts have aligning interests – caring for the land and getting people, especially youth, outside.

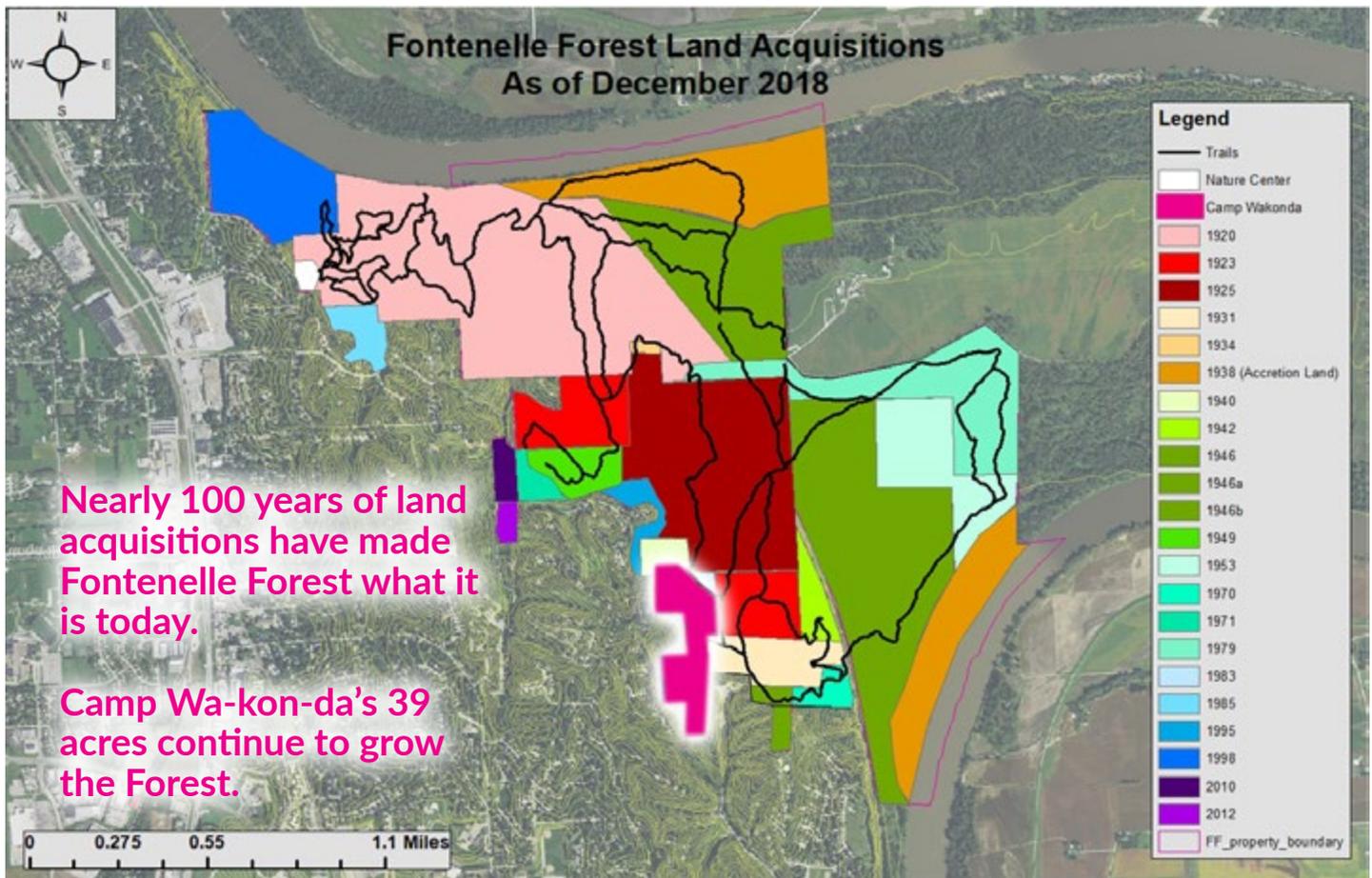
In this next chapter for Camp Wa-kon-da, that partnership will continue to thrive. The continued use of the space by Boy Scouts, as well as the land management and expanded use by Fontenelle Forest brings in new opportunities for growth and learning on both sides.

I have been an active Scout leader since my oldest child became a Tiger Cub Scout nearly ten years ago. We are both Ordeal members of the Order of the Arrow, the



camping honor society for Boy Scouts. (I was also an Explorer Scout when I was in high school, but that's another story!) My middle child has been in the program since he was in first grade, as well as being present at meetings and activities before he was old enough to join. My daughter is looking forward to joining in February, and has been a tag-along to activities, meetings, and camp-outs.

We have been involved as individuals, at the pack and troop level, and also at the district and council level. Scouting is a part of our family, and has helped forge



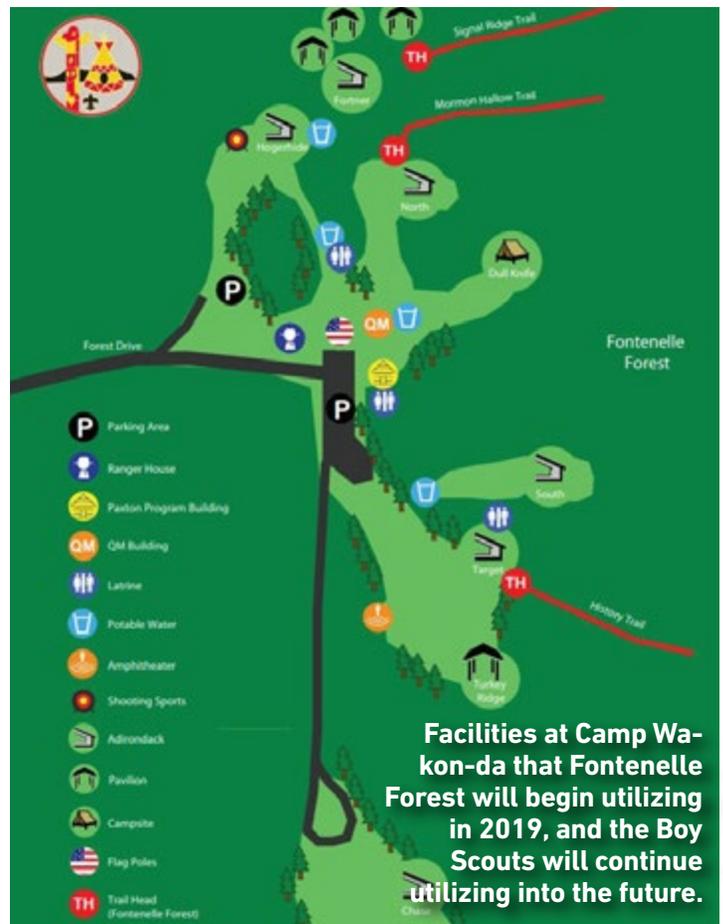
**Years of Forest growth with land acquisitions including the most recent addition is 37 acres at Camp Wa-kon-da.**

friendships and provide learning experiences. As well, I have been an employee at Fontenelle Forest for over six years, in various roles. My children have attended day camps, events, and have volunteered over the years in varying capacities. We hike at Fontenelle Forest and Neale Woods, and they are versed in native habitats. Fontenelle Forest is also a part of our family, and has provided countless hours of connection and learning.

I now have the honor and the privilege to be a part of the combining of Fontenelle Forest and Camp Wa-kon-da. I look forward to working through the challenges that come from such a change – on both the Boy Scout side as well as the Fontenelle Forest side. I have camped often at Camp Wa-kon-da with my pack and troop, both as units and as part of council events.

I feel confident that the continued partnership between Boy Scouts and Fontenelle Forest will be strengthened by the change in ownership, and am excited to see what the future brings.

*Michelle Foss*  
*Fontenelle Forest Manager for Stewardship & Research*  
*Boy Scouts Mid-America Council Scout Leader*



# Education

## Engaging every student at Western Hills Elementary School

The Education department at Fontenelle Forest is fortunate to have many partnerships in the greater Omaha-Council Bluffs community. One of our long-time partners has been OPS Western Hills Magnet Elementary School. This relationship began more than 10 years ago when Western Hills teamed up with Fontenelle Forest to provide expeditions for their students as part of their magnet focus.

Fontenelle Forest engages with every grade level within Western Hills throughout the school year, inspiring students to explore the natural world around them each and every day!

Kindergarten and first grade students receive a visit from a Fontenelle Forest Naturalist during the fall and winter, rounding out the school year with an expedition to the Forest in the spring. This visit is great for experiencing a taste of what the Forest has to offer and getting hands-on with the science they've been learning all year.

The classrooms of 2nd-6th graders go more in depth with the outdoors. Each grade level visits Fontenelle Forest for two-day excursions in the fall and spring, with a one day visit during the winter. Each adventure

supports the science curriculum of the individual grade and our Naturalists spend time collaborating with teachers to make the program as engaging and beneficial to the students' needs as possible.

As science standards change, we are always looking for new ways to explore the science of nature and connect students to the living world all around them. We also place great value on allowing children to have access to nature in a safe and fun environment, something that Fontenelle Forest has great opportunities to provide.





# Summer Day Camps

Are you already dreaming of summer? So are we!

Winter months offer the chance to reflect, recharge, give thanks, and plan for the future. Fontenelle Forest Naturalists and Educators are always grateful for opportunities to share meaningful experiences in nature, and one of our favorite ways to do that is through summer camps. Right now, we are busy developing an entire summer's worth of adventures for 2019.

Summer camps allow for more sustained, immersive connections with the natural world and each other. Children are engaged in science-based learning through play, led by our professional educators. Along with STEAM-based activities, campers are afforded time to explore, build community, cultivate independence, and develop leadership skills. Our staff is committed to providing your child with high-quality, positive experiences, and the growth that we often notice among campers in just one week's time is inspiring.

With access to forests, prairies, and wetlands, there are countless opportunities in Fontenelle Forest to foster a lifelong curiosity, appreciation, and love of the natural world. Whether your child is interested in outdoor recreation, nurturing animals, or simply making friends during a memorable summer, our camps offer something for everyone.

We are excited for the coming year and can't wait to see you this summer!

For more information and to register, visit [fontenelleforest.org/camps](https://fontenelleforest.org/camps)  
Registration opens Friday, February 1st!

This past November, third graders learning all about life cycles and metamorphosis got up close and personal with insects. One might think that insects would be all but gone by this point in the year, but our students discovered something amazing! They were given the task of becoming an Entomologist - a scientist that studies insects - and sent out into the prairie grass of Camp Brewster to search for signs of the bugs. They came back with three praying mantis egg cases and so much more confidence in delving into the unknown. They carefully observed a Wolf Spider in its habitat and got to write about what it was like to *be* the insects out in nature.

Fontenelle Forest staff love bridging the gap for these students, taking them from being unsure that there is anything out there worthwhile, to believing the world is full of endless possibilities and discoveries.

We are so honored to have this partnership and get to work with the next generation, teaching them to care for the natural world.

Grace Gaard

SAVE THE DATE - APRIL 13, 2019

## FEATHER OUR NEST GUILD GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Golden Jubilee Feather Our Nest gala will be April 13, 2019, at the Marriott Capitol District. 2019 is the Fontenelle Forest's Guild's 50th Anniversary. Come help us celebrate nature in our community.

Contact us if you would like to sponsor a table at this event! [bturner@fontenelleforest.org](mailto:bturner@fontenelleforest.org)



## 2019 Fontenelle Forest Clubs

### PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB:

The Fontenelle Forest Photography Club is dedicated to the pursuit of photography and friendship with like-minded people from the Omaha Metro area. Our membership includes photographers of all levels, from beginner to advanced. We are affiliated with Fontenelle Forest and our photographic interests lean toward the flora and fauna of the natural world. However, we have been known to focus on other areas as well.

The Fontenelle Forest Photo Club meets the third Thursday of each month at the Nature Center at 7 p.m. Prospective members may attend any meeting as our guest. Annual dues for Fontenelle Forest Photography Club are \$12 for an individual and \$20 for a family. You must be a member in good standing of Fontenelle Forest to be eligible to join our club.

### BIRD CLUB:

February 7 – Ross Silcock and Joel Jorgensen. "Birds of Nebraska—Online"

\* Joint meeting with Audubon-Omaha at Fontenelle Forest

March 7 – Elliott Bedows. China— the southeast in winter

April 4 – Rick Schmid. "MAPS" = Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship

May 2 – Mace Hack. "A Trip to the Arctic Circle"

### Field Trips:

Saturday, January 19, 2019 (all day)

Branched Oak Lake, Malcolm, NE

Field trip will be mostly driving with some walking, depending on weather. Focus will be on gulls and winter migrants. We will meet at Chalco Hills Recreation Area at 6:45 a.m. and depart promptly at 7. We will carpool, have lunch in Malcolm and return by 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 23, 2019 (all day)

Loess Bluffs NWR, Mound City, MO

Field trip will be mostly driving with very little walking. Focus will be on waterfowl and raptors. This is a rescheduling of the November field trip that was canceled due to bad weather. We will meet at the ASO office (42nd & Center Streets) at 6:45 a.m. and depart promptly at 7. We will carpool, have lunch in Mound City and return to Omaha by 6:00 p.m.

**Interested in joining a club? Call or email club liaison Kenneth White at 402.731.3140 or email [kwhite@fontenelleforest.org](mailto:kwhite@fontenelleforest.org)**

# Forest News

## An amazing end to an unforgettable year

A look back at some of the highlights from the last three months



**#GIVINGTUESDAY** We are proud to announce that we reached our goal of providing 100 memberships to local families who could not otherwise afford one. To celebrate #GivingTuesday in December, Fontenelle Forest asked supporters to donate the cost of a family membership. With a donation match from the Fontenelle Forest Board of Directors and Guild, we were able to provide 10 memberships to each of the following nonprofit partners:



**NORTHSTAR**



**2019 BEST OF OMAHA** Fontenelle Forest was listed in the top three children's attractions in the Omaha Metro area by Omaha Magazine and KETV Omaha.

Additionally, Fontenelle Forest was awarded Nonprofit of the Year from the Sarpy County Chamber of Commerce.

**WINTER WONDERLAND** Did you visit Santa, hike the Trail of Lights, or make gingerbread houses? The Nature Center was all dressed up for the holidays thanks to the support of our "Trail of Lights" sponsors: Beardmore Chevrolet and Subaru, Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska, Fontenelle Forest Board, Fontenelle Forest Guild, Med Express, and Patricia Catering.



**WINTER WONDERLAND**



**GOING WILD FOR GINGERBREAD**

# Regular Programming



## Mud Pies

Looking for a unique setting in which to have fun with your child while learning about the natural world? Mud Pies is a drop-in-and-play program that encourages interaction between adult and child. Each week, a natural science topic is explored through station-based activities and free play. Come discover the joy of sharing nature with your child!



## Family Sundays in the Forest

Join a Fontenelle Forest educator every Sunday afternoon at 1 p.m. for Family Sundays in the Forest. Each week presents a new topic, from snowshoe hikes and indoor activities in the winter to wildflower walks and outdoor fun in the summer. All activities are family friendly and designed to both educate and entertain.



## Homeschool Science

Fontenelle Forest's Homeschool Science program introduces students to a different natural science topic each session. The content focuses on interaction and inquiry. This program is the perfect way for children to connect with nature at an early age. Registration is required. Space is limited so register early.



## Seniors Understanding Nature

Many seniors grew up in a time when nature was a big part of everyday life; SUN (Seniors Understanding Nature) 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

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 as you move towards complete wellness. A meditative walk will follow the class, ending with tea for those who can stay.

**Mondays -  
Thursdays**  
9:30 - 11:30 A.M.  
Ages 5 & younger

**Most Sunday  
Afternoons**  
1-3 P.M.

**Monthly**  
See website for  
dates, times,  
and themes

**2nd Tuesday  
of Each Month**  
9:45 - 11:30 A.M.

**Sunday Mornings**  
9:00 - 10:30 A.M.  
**& Wednesday  
Evenings 6-7 P.M.**

# Calendar Highlights

**January 19**  
**February 16**  
**March 16**  
8:30 AM  
- 12:00 PM  
AT THE  
NATURE  
CENTER

## Land Steward Volunteer Day

The volunteer Land Stewardship crew meets on selected Saturdays mornings to work on various projects.

Interested in joining our land volunteer crew? Contact Michelle Foss at [mfoss@fontenelleforest.org](mailto:mfoss@fontenelleforest.org) or give us a call at 402-731-3140.

**January 19**  
**February 2**  
**February 16**  
**March 2**  
**March 16**  
4-5 PM  
AT THE  
NATURE  
CENTER

## Book Club: poetry of Mary Oliver

We will be exploring poetry through the writings of award winning (including the Pulitzer) poet Mary Oliver. Her nature poems are filled with quiet observations which inspire and remind us to reconnect. Feel free to bring your favorite Mary Oliver poems to share.

**February 2**  
AT THE  
WETLANDS  
LEARNING  
CENTER

## World Wetlands Day

Enjoy a self-guided hike in our Wetlands on this international holiday. Park in the Wetlands parking lot and try a trail you've never seen before! Feel dwarfed by giant cottonwoods along the river on Cottonwood and Missouri trails, or visit the bird blind and tree bridge on Stream Trail. Pay admission at the iron ranger.

**January 26**  
**February 23**  
**March 30**  
9-11:30 AM  
AT THE  
WETLANDS  
LEARNING  
CENTER

## Dirt Time: A Tracking Adventure

Dirt Time is back! 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.

**February 10**  
1-3 PM  
AT THE  
NATURE  
CENTER

## Valentine's Day Raptors... Live!

Celebrate Valentine's Day with our amazing birds of prey and learn more about them! We'll have many raptor ambassadors and experts on hand for you to meet. Questions and photographs are encouraged. Bring a donated canned food item for a surprise to celebrate the holiday!

**February 9**  
**March 9**  
6-9 PM  
AT THE  
WETLANDS  
LEARNING  
CENTER

## Winter Night Hike

We will attempt to find out what animals are stirring on cold winter nights, contradicting the poem! We will try to identify any animals we observe and what they are doing. If we are lucky, we might get the chance to see winter survival in action! Dress for the weather. Ages 15+, please.

**February 12**  
**March 12**  
10:30 AM  
AT THE  
NATURE  
CENTER

## Seniors Understanding Nature

With a different fascinating topic each month, there is no reason to miss one of these lectures. Our upcoming topics are: Jan. 8 - "Saving a Prairie Dog Town". Feb. 12 - Bob Fuchs, "Constellations". March 12 - Kathy Fischer, "Raptors and the Woodland Raptor Refuge". Save the dates!

**February 23**  
2 PM  
AT THE  
NATURE  
CENTER

## Lecture: The Local Life and Legacy of Robert Gilder

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," Who was Robert Gilder? Ben Justman is the executive director at the Sarpy County Museum.

**SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1**

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

**Read more about summer camps on Page 11.**

# Calendar Highlights

## February 24

1-3 P.M.  
AT THE  
NATURE  
CENTER

### Winter Tree Identification Hike

This ever-popular program is back! Even without their leaves, tree species are distinguishable... you just have to know what to look for. Come learn how to identify trees in winter from an expert! Dress for the weather and possible snowy, hilly terrain. For ages 16 and up.

## March 16

1-3 P.M.  
AT THE  
NATURE  
CENTER

### Shillelagh Hiking Stick Workshop

Use hand tools to cut, smooth, and work your own walking stick. Add embellishments to make your stick one-of-a-kind. Pre-registration required. \$5 fee per stick kit; a parent may purchase one stick to work on with their child. Daily admission not included. Please register online to reserve a space.

## March 2

2-3 P.M.  
AT THE  
NATURE  
CENTER

### The Seven containers of the Lakota: Symbology and Usage

Steve Tamayo, artist exhibiting in the Baright Gallery, will give a lecture on rawhide containers, and explain the three mislabeled "Parfleche" containers of the Plains. What are they traditionally used for? Who uses them? And what is the significance?

## March 10

1-3 P.M.  
AT THE  
NATURE  
CENTER

### Writing Hike in the Forest

Practice a little creativity while exploring the sights and sounds of the forest through the lens of writing! Poet, teacher, and naturalist Jeff Lacey will lead you on a trek through the Forest, with stops for guided writing along the way. This is a great chance to celebrate the forest with your own prose, poetry, or comic book. All ages.

## March 23

12-3 P.M.  
AT THE  
NATURE  
CENTER

### Eagle Day

An educational Bald Eagle will be in the Nature Center for visitors to meet, photograph, and learn from, along with Eagle-themed crafts and snacks. Talk to a raptor expert and learn about the ongoing effects of lead in our eagle population and what you can do to help. Donate a canned food item at the front desk for a special prize! \$5 for members \$16 for non-members.

## March 30

1-4 P.M.  
AT THE  
NATURE  
CENTER

### Enchanted Forest

Dress up in your favorite enchanted costume and join us for crafts and activities to spark your children's imaginations, and bring out your inner child. Visit the Mystical Marketplace to trade tokens for special material that will create the perfect fairy house or gnome home. Discover our enchanted forest and meet all the forest fairies, gnomes, and woodland creatures that call Fontenelle Forest home.

## March 24

1-3 P.M.  
AT THE  
WETLANDS  
LEARNING  
CENTER

### Spring Group Hike

Come search for signs of spring as we hike in the Forest. We will search for new growth and animal activity while enjoying the fresh spring air. We might even find some spring wildflowers starting to peek up. Dress for the weather.

\$10 for members \$20 for non-members  
Sales tax included.

Register for this event now, as it could sell out! Call 402.731.3140 or go to [fontenelleforest.org/calendar](http://fontenelleforest.org/calendar)

**FOR COMPLETE PROGRAM LISTINGS, VISIT [FONTENELLEFOREST.ORG](http://FONTENELLEFOREST.ORG)**

