



Leaflet

The Newsletter of Fontenelle Forest | fontenelleforest.org

Winter 2020:
CENTENNIAL



The *Centennial* Issue

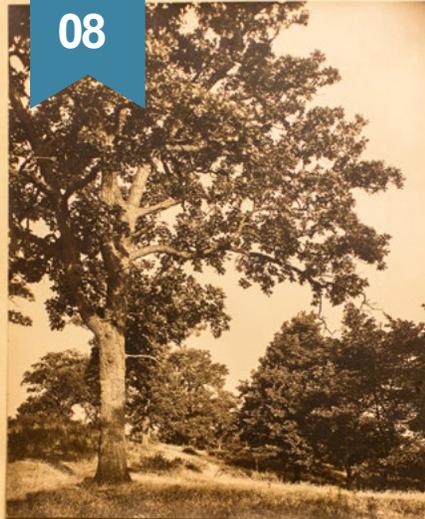




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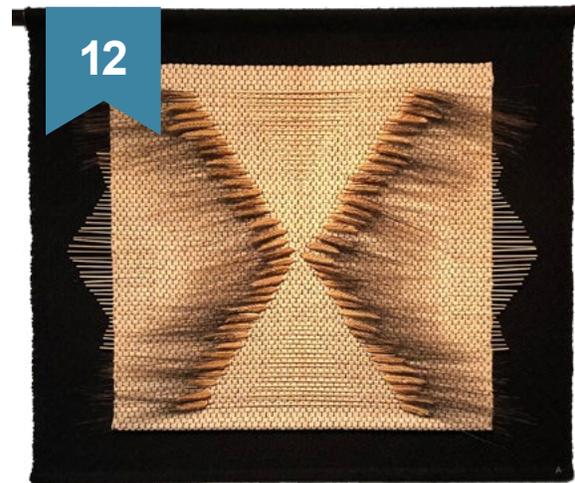
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Fontenelle Forest

1111 Bellevue Blvd North
Bellevue, NE 68005
(402) 731-3140
fontenelleforest.org



Neale Woods Nature Center



Fontenelle Forest Nature Center



Raptor Woodland Refuge

The Founders

Frederick J. Adams
 Howard H. Baldrige
 Thomas C. Byrne
 Robert Cowell
 Charles N. Dietz
 Carl J. Ernst

Harold Gifford
 August F. Jonas
 Sarah H. Joslyn
 Thomas R. Kimball
 Rome Miller
 George T. Morton

Charles F. McGrew
 Arthur C. Smith
 William Stull
 Roy N. Towl
 Solon R. Towne
 Charles M. Wilhelm

In 1919, a group of visionary community leaders appealed to the residents of our city. They wrote of “the Omaha of the future – the city that shall or shall not be the chosen oasis of the transcontinental traveler.” In a booklet that would represent Fontenelle Forest’s very first fundraising campaign, our founders noted that “the future of Omaha, as of any city, depends largely on what is made of its natural physical advantages.” Today, the message that they shared still rings true. The Omaha Metro Area is crowned by its natural advantages – extensive river frontage and thousands of acres of native forest at its doorstep. With the funds raised from Omaha’s “well-to-do and liberally disposed citizens” the Fontenelle Nature Association purchased “367 odd acres” of land from Dr. Harold Gifford in 1920. This would be Fontenelle Forest’s very first land acquisition of many, which today has grown this community treasure to over 2100 acres of land bordered by the Missouri River.

In 2020, Fontenelle Forest celebrates 100 years of providing a place for people to experience and enjoy nature in our community. Since the founding of Fontenelle Forest, we have exceeded even what our visionary founders imagined. What they were correct in asserting is that “the value of such a forest, coming as it does right up to the city limits, can

hardly be overestimated.” Fontenelle Forest is a community treasure providing local residents, students, families, and visitors to our community an opportunity for outdoor recreation and instruction that few other cities have today.

Today, as has always been true, Fontenelle Forest is a one-of-a-kind place in our community. After 100 years Fontenelle Forest continues to benefit our entire community through carbon sequestration and engage our community in environmental education, recreation, relaxation, and hands-on conservation. The Forest’s benefits are broad in scope, significant in impact, and more important today than ever. In this edition of the Leaflet, we look back to celebrate a rich history as we continue to build a legacy that reaches into the next 100 years.

Sincerely,

Merica Whitehall,
 Fontenelle Forest Executive Director

Cover feature image:

Signing of the deed for Fontenelle Forest’s first land purchase, January 27, 1920, at Omaha National Bank. Pictured, left to right: U.S. Senator J.H. Millard, Mrs. William F. Baxter, William Stull, Frederick J. Adams, Carl J. Ernst, Thomas J. Kimbal, Mayor Ed. P. Smith, Dr. Harold Gifford and Roy Towl.



Save the Date:

FEATHER OUR NEST

Friday, April 24, 2020

*The Barn at the Ackerhurst Dairy Farm
15220 Military Road, Bennington, NE 68007*



Please join the Fontenelle Forest Guild in celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the first land acquisition of Fontenelle Forest.

In 1920, the Child's Point Forest Association, a precursor of Fontenelle Forest, purchased their first tract of land, the approximately 370-acre Child's Point. The conservation work of our founders continues today as Fontenelle Forest now encompasses over 2,100 acres of forest, prairie and wetlands along the Missouri River in the geographically significant Loess Hills.

To celebrate this important landmark, the Fontenelle Forest Guild will be hosting the annual Feather Our Nest gala. Enjoy dinner, drinks and live music, and participate in our live auction. Your presence will become a part of Fontenelle Forest's success for the next 100 years.



*Ticket information soon to come.
Please visit FontenelleForest.org for future updates.*



**FONTENELLE
FOREST**

SUPPORTING 100 YEARS OF GROWTH



From a Tiny Acorn to a Tree... How Fontenelle Forest Came to Be

The year 2020 marks 100 years since Dr. Harold Gifford sold about 370 acres of land to Fontenelle Forest. It was the beginning of the Forest that you know and love today. To use a metaphor that seems appropriate, 1913 – the Founding of the Fontenelle Forest Association – was like the acorn falling from the tree and taking root. Initially, there isn't much to see. Then as the roots begin to take hold, a single sapling springs from the earth. Sure, it's small at first, but with good fortune and a nurturing environment, it will live and grow for centuries. Dr. Gifford's generosity and the foresight of Fontenelle Forest's founders has taken hold and expanded to over 2,100 acres of preserved wilderness along the Missouri River.

Fontenelle Forest's success is due to the thousands of staff, caretakers, volunteers, and donors over the last 106 years who have created a place where people can experience and enjoy the natural world. Yet, there is still much work to be done. Fontenelle Forest is engaged in a long-term restoration project to remove and prevent the spread of invasive plant

species and restore the natural oak savannah. We are inspiring nearly 25,000 children a year to explore their environment and act to care for it. We are also making the forest more accessible for those who may not otherwise be able to participate.

And like the founders more than 100 years ago who had a vision to act for the benefit of future generations, we hope you will join us in securing the future of Fontenelle Forest for the next 100 years. Your annual gifts and memberships help create the nurturing environment for the forest to flourish - for your enjoyment and for those yet to come. Gifts can be made at www.fontenelleforest.org or by calling (402) 731-3140.

Thank you for your support.

- Kevin Hendrix
Director of Development and Marketing

Kevin Hendrix, New Director of Development and Marketing



Kevin Hendrix joined the Forest in November of 2019 as the new Director of Development and Marketing. Hendrix most recently served as the Institutional Giving and Special Events Manager with the Omaha Symphony since January 2018. In his role, he was responsible for managing corporate, foundation, and government grants, and acts as the liaison for the Governing Members and Council Bluffs Guild of the Omaha Symphony. Prior to the Omaha Symphony, Kevin

served in leadership and fundraising roles with the Stuhr Museum Foundation (Grand Island, NE), Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum (Ashland, NE), Omaha Performing Arts, and the Durham Museum (Omaha, NE). Kevin has also volunteered on the boards of Vesper Concerts (Omaha, NE), Moonshell Arts and Humanities Council (Grand Island, NE), and Boy Scouts-Overland Trails Council. We are very excited to have Kevin on board!

Raptor Recovery

It only takes a lead fragment the size of a single grain of rice, to kill a 12-pound bald eagle.

This female bald eagle was found standing in water at Hitchcock Nature Center in December of 2019, suffering from lead poisoning. Within four hours of being brought into Raptor Recovery, she died. She was approximately four years old.

Her life was tragically cut short before she was able to mate and reproduce. Generally, eagles begin laying eggs around five years old and can lay up to 40 eggs in a typical lifespan.

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, Feb. 13, 7:00-9:00 PM

The Audubon Society of Omaha and Fontenelle Forest will be hosting a presentation of *FRAGMENTS*, a documentary by Alex Wiles on lead poisoning in raptors. A panel discussion will follow. You won't want to miss this important event! Watch for more details on our website and Facebook page.



FRAGMENTS

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

100 Years of History in Nebraska

The majestic bald eagle is now a common sight in many areas of Nebraska, but 100 years ago they weren't nearly as plentiful. Bald eagle populations were severely impacted, almost causing extinction. The following timeline details their story in Nebraska over the past 100 years.

1800's: Bald eagle populations suffered from hunting and habitat loss when the first settlers moved west through Nebraska.

1900's: Had disappeared as a breeding species across Nebraska.

1940: DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane) was used as a pesticide in abundance in Nebraska. Also, Federal regulations (Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act) enacted a law prohibiting the hunting, collection, and sale of Eagles, including parts or feathers.

1960-1970's: Bald eagle sightings in Nebraska were becoming increasingly rare.

1972: As bird populations were suffering, DDT was banned in the United States.

1973: First nesting attempt in Nebraska but was unsuccessful.

1976: Raptor Recovery Nebraska was founded, receives two injured bald eagles.

1978: Listed as an endangered species in the United States and endangered under Nebraska Non-game Species Conservation Act.

1980-1998: North American Breeding Survey counted 743 nesting pairs of bald eagles across Nebraska.

1991: First successful nesting near Valley, Nebraska.

1996-1999: Average of 990 active nests across Nebraska.

1999: Bald eagle breeding pairs increased to 1,340 pairs across Nebraska.

2007-2008: Removed from the Federal Endangered Species list and removed from endangered under the Nebraska Non-game Species Conservation Act.



Betsy Finch, Manager of Raptor Rehabilitation, and husband Doug Finch, a Raptor Recovery volunteer, released two rehabilitated bald eagles on November 10th, 2019; one immature female who was likely shot, and one adult male who may have flown into something and suffered multiple fractures.

2013: Raptor Recovery Nebraska merged with Fontenelle Forest, known thereafter as Fontenelle Forest Raptor Recovery.

2017: Fontenelle Forest Raptor Recovery admitted 39 Bald Eagles, most suffering from elevated lead levels in their blood.

2019: From 1976 to 2019, Fontenelle Forest Raptor Recovery has helped 413 bald eagles across Nebraska.

We also celebrated the arrival of Fisher and Freedom, the first bald eagles on display at Raptor Woodland Refuge.

The recovery of our national bird, the bald eagle, has been successful, but they still have many threats to their continued survival. Habitat loss, illegal shootings and trappings still occur across the state, but a new threat is poisoning from lead contamination. It only takes a lead fragment the size of a single grain of rice, to kill a 12-pound bald eagle. Please consider using non-toxic alternatives if at all possible.

- Denise Lewis
Director of Raptor Recovery



Land Stewardship

Happy Land Birthday, Fontenelle Forest!

2020 Marks the 100th Anniversary of Fontenelle Forest's First Land Purchase

That's right - it's our birthday!

The first land parcel was purchased and deeded to Fontenelle Forest Association in 1920, is about 370 acres in size, and includes most of the area from where the Nature Center is now to the current south end of Oak Trail (light pink on the map).

This expanse, as with the rest of the land owned by Fontenelle Forest, has a long and varied history. From prehistoric ocean creatures to nomadic native peoples to today's visitors, this area has seen geological and ecological shifts. The landscape shifts include glaciation, river formation, loess bluff deposition, dry prairie and savanna/woodland creation.

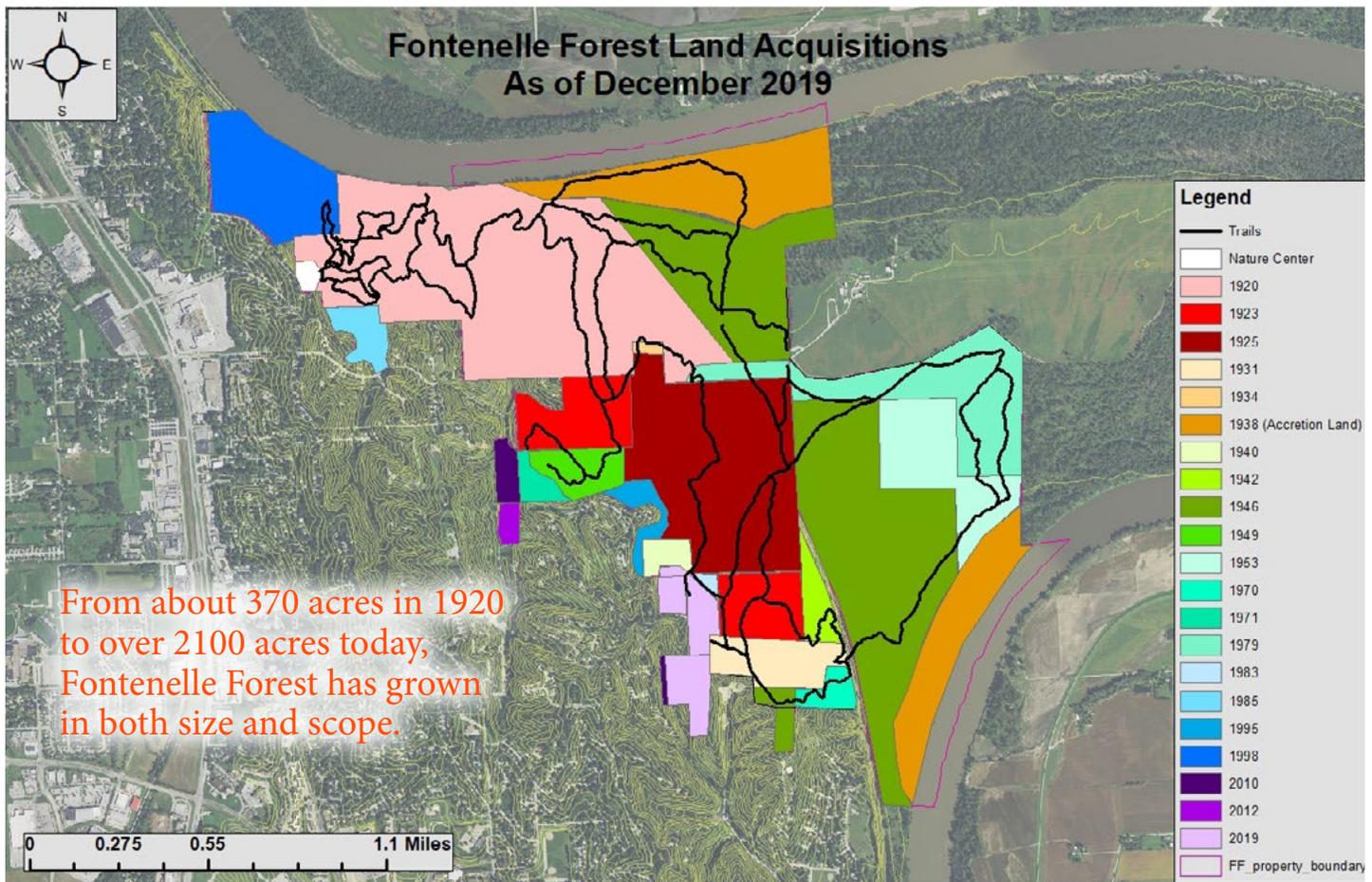
As noted by Gary Garabrandt, retired Director of Science and Stewardship of Fontenelle Forest, in his Master's thesis about land use history (1978), "the land use history of the area is fairly complex" due to the piece-meal manner in which land was obtained. In some places, the history of the land prior to acquisition

by Fontenelle is lost; in others, there is documentation from the early trading post days.

Fontenelle contains such treasures as Native American earth lodge sites, the original Bellevue trading post site, old-growth oak and walnut trees, and building and road scars from various land owners and travelers. There have been several archeological digs on the property, as well as the land use history written by Gary Garabrandt, based on research and individual interviews, as well as tree core sampling.

Some of our land, what is called accretion land on the map (dark orange), was acquired through the channelizing of the Missouri River. There have been land swaps with Gifford Farm and Bellevue College (not Bellevue University, but another entity altogether), and there have been two Boy Scout camps within our boundaries, including the most recent acquisition of Camp Wakonda.

Over the past 100 years, land management has gone from "hands-off, let nature take the land back", to "we



altered the habitat so much, we need to help mitigate past land use practices for a healthy system.” We have land which was logged along the slopes, and former prairie which was invaded by fast-growing trees.

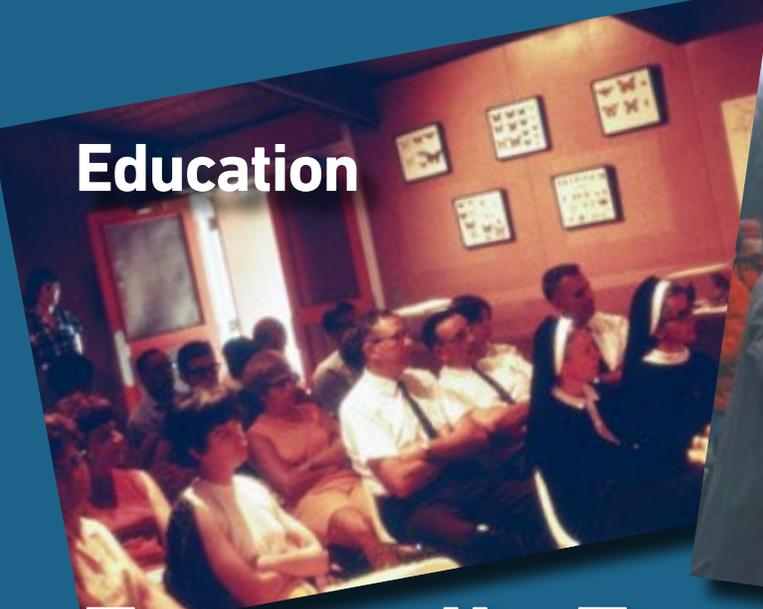
Understanding the previous land use history and dynamics helps us determine where our oak savanna/ woodland and prairie restoration should take place, as well as provide a starting point for management planning activities. Scientific studies, surveys and research, which have taken place over the years and acres, allows for better understanding of the processes affecting the land, and informs and shapes management options.

From our initial approximately 370 acres, to the over 2,100 acres owned today, Fontenelle Forest has grown both in size and in scope. We look forward to the future and the endeavors yet unknown.

- Michelle Foss
Fontenelle Forest Manager of Stewardship & Research

Captions: Top left: Hikers (1925). Top right: Fontenelle Forest Land Acquisitions (2019). Bottom Right: Bostwick Constitution Tree (now Consitution Tree on Third Loop).





Education



Fontenelle Forest's First Chief Naturalist Shares Experience

I went to work at the Nature Center in 1968, one day after graduating from Omaha University with a Masters in Biology. I thought my job as “Chief Naturalist” was to carry out fieldwork. I was prepared for that. I must not have understood clearly, and I was not prepared for what I really would be doing: leading students on guided hikes to help them learn and appreciate the forest and its life forms. And on the weekends presenting educational programs for visitors.

I remember being assigned to work with a group of high school students who wanted to learn about the forest’s medicinal and toxic plants. An unusual request to be sure. And this was not an “ordinary” group. They were from a so-called alternative school, which I was told had some pretty tough kids.

It just so happened that I had been working with a pharmacognosist from Creighton. (Pharmacogony is the study of medicines and crude drugs produced from plants and other life forms.)

When the field trip day arrived, my partner pharmacognosist joined us in the field. I located and identified plants, and he described their medicinal or toxic properties. In my career, I have had few other groups that were as attentive and grateful for their Nature Center experience as this one.

I had the pleasure of leading lots of field trips. Most were along the forest’s trails. There were special occasions when we went farther afield. On an annual trip to the Desoto National Wildlife Refuge we saw more than a million migrating snow geese and ducks. Trailing behind were bald eagles looking for dinner.

After the spectacular early morning lift off of the geese, we went looking for lots of other animals aloft and afoot. In a solitary tree near the water we spotted a majestic adult bald eagle striking a picture perfect pose. We quietly off loaded our guests and set up a couple of spotting scopes. We trained the scopes on the bird, and one by one, we invited everyone to take a look as the bird remained perched.

One visitor stepped up, and while she viewed the eagle through the scope, tears flowed down her cheeks. It was one magical moment for both of us, and to this day I get emotional when I think about it. A humble beginning perhaps, but my five years as the Forest’s first Chief Naturalist prepared me as no other experience could.

It prepared me to be the founder of Indian Creek Nature Center in Iowa. It launched my writing career. I made important professional connections that one day would lead to an invitation to join the staff of the National Wildlife Federation in Washington DC.

“A humble beginning perhaps, but my five years as the Forest’s first Chief Naturalist prepared me as no other experience could.”

- Curt Abdouch



My position at Fontenelle Forest built the skills I needed to join local and state environmental action organizations in Omaha and Nebraska. Later in life I would go on to start two science and environmental education companies and serve as faculty and staff at University of California Irvine and University of Southern California.

I have not forgotten the roots I sank at Fontenelle that grew and flourished into a lifetime that I would not trade. And through it, I like to think I have remained humble. Humbled by priceless lessons learned at Fontenelle that taught me to never stop learning and teaching, and to take nothing for granted. Over the years I lost some hair, but never my love for Fontenelle Forest.

I sincerely hope I made a contribution and perhaps a difference to Fontenelle Forest’s history and future.

- Curt Abdouch
Chief Naturalist, Fontenelle Forest, 1968-1973

Captions: Top left: Summer workshop for teachers in the Natural Science Building (1968). Middle: Curt leading a fall field trip to Desoto National Wildlife Refuge (1971). Top Right: Curt feeding an injured fawn.

Summer Camps

Summer camps are back...and better than ever!

It might be cold outside, but we’re slathering on the sunscreen preparing for an action-packed summer! Our most popular camps are back, along with some new offerings too.

Interested in animals big and small? Check out **Jr. Wildlife Vet** for younger campers (ages 6-8) and **Wildlife Camp** for older campers (ages 9-12). Or, for something a little muddier, wiggly or slimy, the new **Grossology** or **A Bug’s Life** might be the camp for you! Also new this year, we’re teaming up with **Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo** for **Predator & Prey**. Campers will spend two days at Fontenelle and three days at the zoo to learn about both native and exotic animals. Those in search of creatures that are more fanciful and creative to engage the imagination will love **Enchanted Forest** and **Fantastic Beasts**, which will have campers exploring the Forest with a magical perspective.

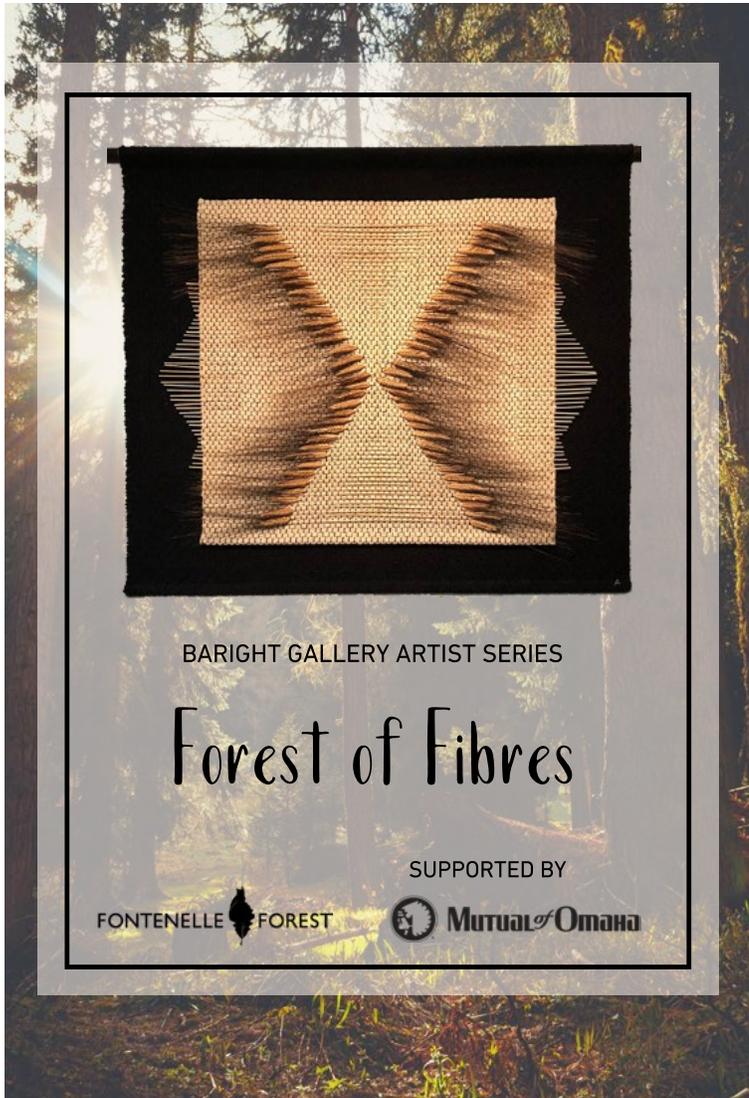
Up for a challenge? Whether mental or physical, **Nature’s Engineers** and **Wild Ones: Nature Explorers** for younger campers, or **Off the Grid** and **Challenge Camp** for older campers, will match camper’s abilities to help them explore their limits and work with a team to go farther. We’re excited to incorporate **TreeRush** in some camps to take camper’s experiences to new heights. And new this year is our first three-day, two-night **Adventure Camp** for campers 10-13.

Does your child love camp so much that they don’t want to leave at the end of the day? **Extended Camp** Monday-Thursday from 3:00-5:30 p.m. is a great add-on option. Campers will continue the fun with additional games and activities, building on the skills they learned during day camp.

Have a child who’s not quite camp age? Don’t worry, we also have great things planned for our youngest explorers (ages 3-5) who will discover the A, B, C’s of nature through the half-day **Possum Pals** caregiver-n-me camp.

For more information and to register, visit **fontenelleforest.org/camps**
Registration opens Friday, February 1st!

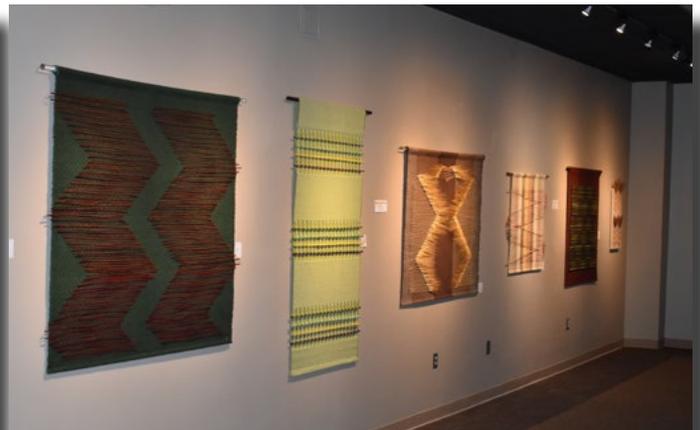
Baright Gallery Artist Series Exhibit *Forest of Fibres* Open Now through March 31



On Saturday, January 4th, we hosted the opening of our newest Baright Gallery Artist Series exhibit *Forest of Fibres*. The exhibit is by local artist Agneta Gaines, a Swedish-born artist who resides in Omaha. Her art often incorporates natural fibers and unusual materials, with unexpected treatments - many with botanical themes.

Approximately 120 people attended the opening, enjoyed music and refreshments, and had a chance to talk to Agneta about her work. If you were unable to join us for the opening, *Forest of Fibres* will be open until March 31. The exhibit is free for members or with daily admission for non-members.

The Baright Gallery Artist Series, sponsored by Mutual of Omaha, is an annual series featuring a different artist, or group of artists, each quarter.





**THE BRIGHT GALLERY ARTIST SERIES
COMMUNITY ART SHOW**
WILL BE ON DISPLAY APRIL THROUGH JUNE 2020

**SUBMIT YOUR ARTWORK
FOR CONSIDERATION IN
OUR UPCOMING
COMMUNITY ART SHOW**

Submissions will be accepted:
January 27 to March 2

Visit our website fontenelleforest.org for more information. The "2020 Community Art Show Submission Form" will go live on January 27.

Thank you to our 2019 supporters!

1,099

individual donors

5,789

memberships

\$1,382,420

total contributions

199

patron members

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!



Seniors Understanding Nature

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



Home School Science (Begins Jan. 13)

This program is designed to supplement science home school education through fun, interactive, hands-on activities and a guided hike with a naturalist. Each session focuses on a natural history or science topic. Recommended for students in 2nd to 4th grades. Registration is required. Space is limited so register early.



Sunday Trekking

Join us for a 2-4 mile hike on different trails each week, exploring the forest in winter. Hikes are more advanced and traverse hilly terrain. Snow shoes are encouraged on snowy days (or rent them from the Forest)! Dress for the weather and bring water. Free for members or with daily admission. Must preregister. (Ages 18+).



Yoga in the Forest

Join us for an hour-long vinyasa style yoga class, designed to de-stress and relax you. In winter, we practice yoga indoors. This class is accessible for all levels of yogis, from beginner to experienced, and is free for members or with daily admission for non-members.

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

**2nd Tuesday
of each Month**
9:45 - 11:00 AM

**Monthly, on
Mondays**
9:30-11:30 AM
See website for
themes.

**Sunday
Afternoons**
1-3:00 PM

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

Calendar Highlights

January 11
February 8
March 14
5 - 7:00 PM
AT THE
NATURE
CENTER

Night Hike

Explore the forest during a 2-3 mile night hike. We will be watching for animal activity as sunlight disappears, and discussing the nocturnal life of the forest. Wear appropriate clothing/shoes and bring a flashlight/headlamp and water. This is a more advanced hike. Free for members or with daily admission. Must preregister.

January 11
10:00 - Noon
February 9
12 - 2:00 PM
AT THE
NATURE
CENTER

Raptors... Live!

Stop by and meet our amazing birds of prey! This is an opportunity to meet our amazing raptor ambassadors up close. Experts will be on hand to provide details about the birds. Questions and photographs are encouraged. Free for members or with daily admission for non-members.

January 15
February 26
March 25
10 - 11:30 AM
AT THE
NATURE
CENTER

Hiking for Seniors

For seniors, walking offers numerous health benefits. Take an enjoyable 1-2 mile hike (with some hills) at a pace that accommodates all hikers (beginner to experienced). Some hiking poles will be provided. Dress for the weather and bring water. Free for members or with daily admission for non-members. Must preregister.

January 18
1 - 2:00 PM
AT THE
NATURE
CENTER

Winter in the Forest

Join us for a walk on the boardwalk, surrounded by the wonder of winter in the forest. A naturalist will guide you on the walk, discussing the changes in flora and fauna in the forest during the winter months. Dress for the weather and bring water. Free for members or with daily admission. Must preregister.

January 18
February 22
10:00 AM-NOON
AT THE
NATURE
CENTER

Winter Bird Walk

Join us for a walk in the forest as we search for winter birds. Bring your binoculars to get an up close look at birds actively searching for food in the winter months. Dress for the weather and bring water. Free for members or with daily admission for non-members. Must preregister.

January 18
February 15
March 21
LOCATION
DEPENDENT
ON PROJECT

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 or give us a call at 402-731-3140.

January 25
February 29
March 28
9 - 11:00 AM
AT THE
NATURE
CENTER

Dirt Time: A Tracking Adventure

Have you ever wanted to learn how to interpret clues left behind by forest animals? Join us on the trails as we learn about animal tracks and scat. All participants will receive a free animal track guide. Dress for the weather and bring water. Bring gloves and wear clothes and shoes you don't mind getting dirty. Free for members or with daily admission. Must preregister.

February 15
1:00-2:30 PM
AT THE
NATURE
CENTER

Winter Tree Identification Hike

Join us for a walk through the forest where you will learn how to identify trees during the winter months. A naturalist will guide the walk, discussing the tree species and how to tell them apart without their leaves. This program is free for members or with daily admission. Participants must preregister.

SUMMER CAMP
REGISTRATION OPENS FEB. 1
VISIT FONTENELLEFOREST.ORG/CAMPS

Read more about summer camps on Page 11.

February 21
6:30-8:00 PM
AT NEALE
WOODS

Winter Constellation Viewing

Join us for winter constellation viewing, and identify constellations such as Orion, Canis Major, Cetus, Eridanus, Gemini, Perseus and Taurus. Bring binoculars to view deep sky objects as desired. Free for members or with daily admission for non-members. Must preregister.

Calendar Highlights

February 29

10 - 11:30 AM
AT NEALE
WOODS

Ecosystem Exploration

Become an ecosystem explorer! A naturalist will guide participants along the trails and discuss the diverse life found in Oak Savanna and Prairie ecosystems. Free for members or with daily admission for non-members. Must preregister.

March 21

12 - 2:00 PM
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 effects of lead in our eagle population and what you can do to help. \$5 for members; \$16 for non-members.

March 6

5:30 - 7:30 PM
AT THE
NATURE
CENTER

Full Moon Walk and Campfire

This family friendly program includes a short, moonlight hike through the forest followed by a campfire under the moon. Learn about nocturnal life in the forest. After the hike, participants will roast s'mores and listen to stories around the campfire. Members: \$5 for children, \$10 for adults. Non-members \$13 for children, \$21 for adults (includes daily admission). Must preregister.

March 21

1 - 2:30 PM
AT THE
NATURE
CENTER

Turkey Trek

Discover the fascinating world of turkeys on a spring trek through the forest! A naturalist will guide participants in search of busy gobblers preparing for the spring mating season. Participants will learn about interesting behaviors and characteristics of turkeys. Free for members or with daily admission. Must preregister.

March 14

1 - 3:00 PM
AT THE
NATURE
CENTER

Shillelagh Hiking Stick Workshop

Embrace your inner leprechaun! Use hand tools to cut, smooth and work your own custom walking stick. Add embellishments to make your stick one-of-a-kind. \$5 for members; \$20 for non-members (includes daily admission). Fees are per stick. Only 15 kits available. A parent may purchase one stick to work on with their child. Must preregister online to reserve a space.

March 22

9 - 11:00 AM
AT THE
NATURE
CENTER

Spring Migration Bird Walk

Join us for a walk in the forest as we search for birds during spring migration. Bring your binoculars to get an up close look at birds resting and foraging before continuing their journey North. Dress for the weather and bring water. Free for members or with daily admission. Must preregister.

March 14

10 - 11:00 AM
AT THE
NATURE
CENTER

Forest Sensations!

Explore the forest using your senses! A naturalist will guide children (ages 3-6) and caregivers on a short walk through the forest and look for life during the early spring. Children will be encouraged to make discoveries along the way using their five senses. Free for members or with daily admission. Must preregister.

March 28

1 - 4:00 PM
AT THE
NATURE
CENTER

Enchanted Forest (formerly Fairy Faire)

Dress up in your favorite enchanted costume and join us for crafts and activities to spark your child's imagination! 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. **\$5 for members; \$15 for non-members (includes admission).** Call 402.731.3140 or go to fontenelleforest.org/calendar.

**FOR COMPLETE PROGRAM DETAILS AND LISTINGS,
VISIT FONTENELLEFOREST.ORG**