



## WINTER 2011-12 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Indian Creek Nature Center · 6665 Otis Rd SE · Cedar Rapids, IA · 52403  
**Registration/information: 319-362-0664. Please register for all programs.**

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

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



(Marion Patterson)

From Monday, Jan. 2-Tuesday, Jan. 31 during regular business hours view the **Junior Duck Stamp Exhibit** in the auditorium. See original works by young Iowa artists who have entered the Junior Duck Stamp competition.

### Nature's Noel

**Saturday, Dec 3, 9 AM-Noon**

Centerpieces, wreaths and swags made with fresh greens; frozen soups and appetizers; vendors with various handmade wares; cookie dough and candy; and, live music combine to create a festive holiday event. Search for treasures in Noel's Attic, a new feature this year! This annual Guild fundraiser benefits the Nature Center.

**On Monday, Dec. 5** the Nature Center buildings are closed but trails are open.

### REAL Walk:

**Armchair Adventure  
Exploring Bogs and Fens  
Wednesday, Dec 7, 10 AM**

*REAL Walks are geared for those age 50 or better.* Enjoy a warm beverage and a "tour"—featuring Bob & Linda Scarth's photography—of Iowa's unique geology that created bogs and fens. Discover the ecology of fens and the unusual plants that live there. Explore our lost local history of peat mining. *M: \$3, NM: \$4.*

### Holiday Blood Drive

**Thursday, Dec 8, 3-6 PM**

What better gift can you give this holiday season than the gift of life? Blood supplies are stretched thin over the holidays so we've invited the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center

to set up a collection site at ICNC today. As a bonus we're offering "A Pint for a Pint": donate a pint of blood and take advantage of a special price of \$10 for a pint of real maple syrup (regularly \$15). **Call 362-0664 to set up a time for your donation.** Plan to spend 45-60 minutes here. Naturalists will entertain your children while you donate.

### Are You Prepared for a Disaster?

**Saturday, Dec. 10, 1 PM**

Many of us are unprepared for a natural disaster that could shut down utilities, stores, roads, and other services. This program addresses how to prepare for such losses for at least a week. It will include emergency food preparation, storm protection, preventing home freeze-ups, and more. *M: \$6, NM: \$8.*

### Green and Simple: Holiday Gifts for Kids to Make!

**Saturday, Dec. 10, 1-4 PM**

The best gifts are handmade and created by excited children. Elementary-age students are invited to spend the afternoon creating personal holiday gifts for their families. We have fun, easy, exciting projects planned, including the wrapping paper! **Be sure to wear old clothes. Register by 4 PM on Dec. 7; limited to the first 15 kids.** *M Child: \$8; NM Child: \$12.*

### Full Moon Walk in the Early Winter Woods

**Saturday, Dec. 10, 6:30-8:30 PM**

Trees stand silhouetted in silver moonlight, moon shadows soften the trails and mysterious rustling and crunches stimulate your curiosity. The winter woods at night is a wonder-filled place to wander with a naturalist. Dress warmly and join us for a moonlit adventure. *M: \$3, NM: \$4.*

### Winter Birds:

**Tuesday, Dec. 13 or**

**Friday, Dec. 16, 9:30-10:30 AM**

*For preschoolers and parents.*



Find out which feathered friends are visiting the Nature Center

and your neighborhood this winter. Learn the calls and colors of common birds and make a special treat to take home for your own backyard buddies. *M Child: \$4, NM Child: \$5, Parents: Free.*

### Holiday Book Fair

**Thursday, Dec. 15-**

**Saturday, Dec. 17, hours below**

*Attention last minute shoppers!* The Book House brings a great selection of fascinating science and nature-themed books for children and adults just in time for the holidays! Find

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something for nearly everyone on your gift list! Shop during business hours: 9 AM-4 PM on Thursday and Friday and 10 AM-4 PM on Saturday. Shopping helps support Nature Center programs and activities. *Free admission.*

### Winter Birds

**Saturday, Dec. 17, 10-11 AM**  
*For preschoolers and parents.*  
See Dec. 13th entry for description and fees.

### Solstice Celebration: Seasons of Change

**Saturday, Dec. 17, 6 PM**  
Carl Bracken of Cedar Amateur Astronomers explores the science and cultural traditions of the Winter Solstice. Jointly sponsored by Prairiewoods, Linn County Conservation Board and ICNC. **Location:** *Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center. Donations accepted.*

### December Holidays

**Friday, Dec. 23-Monday, Dec. 26:** Happy Holidays! The Nature Center buildings are closed but trails are open.

### GPS Fun in the Snow

**Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2 PM**  
No matter the season, a geocache hunt is an exciting family outdoor activity. Learn how to use a GPS unit while discovering the fun outdoor sport of geocaching. A geocache is hidden treasure you find using a high-tech GPS unit. Bring your own unit or call to reserve one of ours. *M Adult: \$5, NM Adult: \$8; Child: \$2.*

### Iowa's Winter Birds

**Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2 PM**  
Some birds are year-around

residents while others migrate to Iowa for the winter. Learn who's who, build a feeder from recycled materials, visit our bird blind, and walk to the Cedar River in search of eagles. Dress for the outdoors. *M Adult: \$4, NM Adult: \$5, Child: \$2.*

### Snowshoe Hike

**Thursday, Dec. 29, 2 PM**  
A snowshoe hike is great winter exercise with the benefit of fresh air, beautiful scenery, and signs of wildlife to enjoy. Bring your own snowshoes or call to reserve a pair of ours. No snow? We'll hike instead. Enjoy a cup of hot cocoa after your outdoor adventure. *M Adult: \$4, NM Adult: \$5, Child: \$2.*

### New Year's Holidays

**Friday, Dec. 30-Sunday, Jan. 1**  
The Nature Center's buildings are closed, but trails are open.

### REAL Walk: Snowshoeing

**Wednesday, Jan. 4, 10 AM**  
*REAL Walks are geared for those age 50 or better.* Turn your feet into snowshoe hare feet and enjoy a walk off the beaten track searching for tracks and traces of winter wildlife. *M: \$3, NM: \$4.*

### Green and Simple:

**Simplicity Discussion Series**  
**Saturday, Jan. 7, 8 AM**  
Join our six-week discussion course that introduces various aspects of simple living. Begin with this free, no-obligation preview discussion of simplicity principles. Following the introductory session, group discussions will occur on these Saturdays: Jan. 14, 21 & 28 and Feb. 4 & 11. Call or go to the Center's website for full course description. A discussion course

book is required and is included in the fee. **Call ICNC by 4 PM on Jan. 6 to register.** *Fee: \$50; \$60/couple if sharing a book.*

### Oh, How Many Feet You Meet! Tuesday, Jan. 10 or

**Friday, Jan. 13, 9:30-10:30 AM**  
*For preschoolers and parents.*



Listen to a story all about feet and do a tracking craft.



Study animal mounts to learn

how a critter's paws can help it move around, eat, and make a home. Go out on a tracking hike to discover how many feet you really meet at Indian Creek! *M Child: \$4, NM Child: \$5. Parents: Free.*

### Not a Lot of Plot Workshop Saturday, Jan. 14, 9 AM-3 PM

Learn how to live a more sustainable lifestyle by growing food in your backyard, no matter how small. See details in the "Not a Lot of Plot" brochure: [www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org](http://www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org). **Fee: \$25 for members of ICNC or Brucemore; NM: \$30. Call to register; limited to 50 people.**

### Naturalist Adventurers:

#### Build a Quinzhee

**Saturday, Jan. 14, 1 PM**  
*Naturalist Adventurers* is a program for students in middle school and older. Join us for an afternoon of fun creating a quinzhee, an Athabaskan Native American snow shelter. Also, learn to use snowshoes, another Native American winter activity, and enjoy a hot chocolate break. Wear warm outdoor clothes and boots and bring a snow shovel for great winter fun. **Call to register.** *M: \$5, NM: \$6.*

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**Birds of a Feather:  
Science & Nature  
Working Together**

**Sunday, Jan. 15, 1-2:30 PM**

Nature has long been an inspiration for invention. Explore the principles of flight in a creative way as you learn how each aspect was inspired by nature. This collaborative session between the Science Station and Indian Creek Nature Center will utilize the *Take Flight* exhibit to demonstrate the learning ideas in this session. **Location: Science Station. Register via the Science Station (363-4629).**

**ICNC Guild's Annual  
Luncheon and Meeting  
Monday, Jan. 16, Noon**

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

**Beginning Beekeeping Series:  
Session I**

**Thursday, Jan. 19, 7-9 PM**

This is the first of an eight-session series designed for individuals serious about starting a beekeeping hobby. The series takes participants through the annual cycle of beekeeping, from establishing a hive to harvesting and marketing the honey produced. Class members will work with the hives at ICNC. All classes are held at the Nature Center and last approximately two hours; attendance is critical. Call or visit ICNC's website for full class descriptions. **Call by 4 PM on Wednesday, Jan. 18 to register. Series Fees: M: \$55,**

**NM: \$85. \$10/partner.**

**"Queen of the Sun" Film Night**

**Friday, Jan. 27, 6:30 PM**

Begin the evening with a full moon walk through the apiary with a beekeeper. Return to the barn for a warm beverage and popcorn to enjoy the award-winning film "Queen of the Sun: What are the bees telling us?" This engaging and ultimately uplifting film weaves an unusual and dramatic story of the heartfelt struggles of beekeepers, scientists and philosophers from around the world. **\$5/person.**

**Fifth Annual Paddle Day**

**Saturday, Jan. 28, 12:30-5 PM**

The novice, the experienced and the paddler wannabe will enjoy engaging presentations, displays and great door prizes on Paddle Day. Author-photographer Larry Stone shares natural and cultural treasures located along Iowa's waterways. DNR Iowa-Cedar River Basin Coordinator Mary Beth Stevenson tells of watershed improvements that may enhance paddling prospects. Seatasea Watersports presents kayaking basics. And Ben Petty shares secrets of canoe and kayak fishing along his favorite streams. See full details at [www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org](http://www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org) or call ICNC. **Sponsored by an anonymous donor, ICNC, Sticks in the Water, and Seatasea Watersports. M: 7, NM: \$10.**

**ICNC Annual Meeting**

**Tuesday, Jan. 31, 4:30 PM**

All Nature Center members are cordially invited to attend this review of 2011.

**REAL Walk: Tour the  
Hughes Nursery Museum**

**Wednesday, Feb. 1, 10 AM**

*REAL Walks are geared for those age 50 or better.* The Hughes Nursery & Landscaping Family-Business Museum contains items of interest dating to 1908, when the business began. Next to the Museum is the company's office building, built in 1910, with original furniture and equipment. **Call ICNC to sign up for this unique tour and for driving directions. M: \$3, NM: \$4.**

**Owl Moon Walk**

**Friday, Feb. 3, 7 PM**

Stroll under the magic light of an almost full moon. Winter evenings are ideal for listening and looking for owls. Our goal will be to reach a favored owl habitat: the pine grove. Be prepared to hike outdoors on snowy trails. **M: \$4, NM: \$5, Child: \$1.**

**Willow Tower Workshop**

**Saturday, Feb. 4, 11 AM-4 PM**

Learn how to collect willow, view a slide presentation of garden structures made from willow and build your own garden tower! Willow weaver Mary Kopecky will teach you how to create a strong, attractive seven-foot garden tower. **Bring your own lunch. Call 362-0664 to register; limited to 15 people. M: \$80, NM: \$90. Fee includes \$65 worth of materials.**

**Naturalist Adventurers:**

**Sugarbush Set-Up**

**Saturday, Feb. 11, 10 AM-Noon**

*Naturalist Adventurers* is a program for students in middle school and older. Help us tap trees and prepare for the maple

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syrup making season. Wear boots and dress warmly for the outdoors. **Call 362-0664 to register; limited to first 10 registrants. Free.**

### **Saving Household Money Through Energy Efficiency** **Saturday, Feb. 11, 2-4 PM**

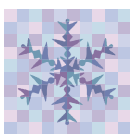
This workshop for homeowners provides specific information on efficient lighting and household management techniques that reduce utility bills. For full description see [www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org](http://www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org) or call 362-0664. **Sponsored by the Iowa Energy Center. Call by Tuesday, Feb. 7 to register. Free.**

### **Saving Money Through Energy Efficiency (for Nonprofits & Small Businesses)**

**Tuesday, Feb. 14, 9 AM-3 PM**  
This workshop will help small businesses and nonprofits learn how to reduce utility costs through careful building management and the use of efficient technologies. For complete description see [www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org](http://www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org) or call ICNC. **Sponsored by the Iowa Energy Center. Call by Thursday, Feb. 9 to register. Bring your own lunch; beverages provided. Free.**

### **Winter Water Wonders** **Tuesday, Feb. 14 or**

**Friday, Feb. 17, 9:30-10:30 AM**  
For preschoolers and parents.



Investigate the wonders of water—snow and ice—in winter. How does snow actually help plants and animals? Dress for the weather so we can spend time outside

enjoying this beautiful season.  
*M Child: \$4, NM Child: \$5. Parents: Free.*

### **Toddler Tracks: Winter Wildlife**

**Saturday, Feb. 18, 10 AM-Noon**  
For children ages 18-36 months accompanied by an adult.



Explore the wonderful world of winter wildlife through self-guided interactive play with your toddler. Feel fuzzy furs, hop like a hare, listen to a story and more. Bundle up to go on a naturalist-led hike. Activities will be repeated, so come and go as it works best for you and your toddler! *M Child: \$4, NM Child: \$5. Parents: Free.*

### **Backyard Chicken Basics** **Saturday, Feb. 18, 2 PM**

This workshop covers the basic information needed to keep hens legally in Cedar Rapids. Participants will receive a certificate of completion that enables them to get a chicken permit. **Call by 4 PM on Friday, Feb. 16 to register. M: \$7, NM: \$10.**

**Presidents' Day Holiday**  
On **Monday, Feb. 20** the Nature Center's buildings are closed, but trails are open.

### **Hungry for a Change: Food, Ethics & Sustainability** **Saturday, Feb. 25, 8 AM**

This six-session discussion course explores food systems and our relationships to them. Examine the impact food choices have on our health and that of our planet. Consider the ethical and political implications of our food system and our personal food choices.

See website for full course description. **Call ICNC by 4 PM on Wednesday, Feb. 22 to register. Fee: \$50 (includes required book); \$60/couple if sharing a book.**

### **Winter Bug Academy** **Saturday, Feb. 25, 1 PM**

Open to all adults and children 8 years old and up. Joe and Christopher Zito invite you to an outdoor winter insect foray to look for over-wintering insects, snow fleas, active winter stoneflies and craneflies! Come dressed to go outdoors. Also see an indoor presentation on how insects survive winter and deal with cold. **Advanced registration recommended (362-0664). M Adult: \$4, NM Adult: \$5, Child: \$3.**

### **Chicken Raising Questions? Ask the Expert!**

**Saturday, Feb. 25, 2 PM**  
Do you have chicken raising questions you can't seem to get answered? If so, ask Dr. Darrell Trampel, ISU poultry extension veterinarian, today. Dr. Trampel responds to poultry health questions raised by producers, backyard hobbyists and veterinarians, and serves as liaison between the College of Veterinary Medicine and Iowa poultry organizations. **Call ICNC by 4 PM on Thursday, Feb. 23 to register. M: \$3, NM: \$4.**

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**2012 Maple Syrup Festival**  
**Saturday, Mar. 3 & Sunday, Mar. 4, 8:30 AM-12:30 PM**  
Enjoy a pancake breakfast with real maple syrup produced at ICNC. Learn about and observe historical methods of making maple syrup. *Fee.*