

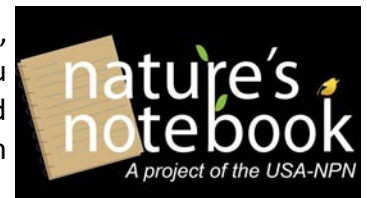
Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge



Special Events

Nature's Notebook Program beginning at the Refuge! Saturday, September 9, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Neal Smith NWR has begun participating in Nature's Notebook and we're looking for volunteers. Nature's Notebook is a national, online program where amateur and professional naturalists regularly record observations of plants and animals to generate long-term data sets used for scientific discovery and decision-making. An information session will be held on Saturday, September 9 at noon. We'll have a potluck and discuss the program and what you can do to help. Bring a dish to share for the potluck. Questions will be answered during the information session. No registration is required. For more information contact Karen at karen_vistesparkman@fws.gov or 515-994-3400.



Monarch Madness

Saturday, September 16, 9:00 a.m. ~ 11:00 a.m.



Calling citizen scientists of all ages! Neal Smith NWR is looking for volunteers to assist Refuge staff in capturing, tagging, and releasing monarch butterflies. Tagging monarchs helps scientists learn more about their fascinating migration. **Pre-registration is required and limited to the first 100 participants.** Contact Doreen at 515-994-3400 or email Doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov.

National Public Lands Day

Saturday, September 30, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer effort of public lands. Last year, 175,000 volunteers celebrated across the country. Join us for a chance to volunteer and create native tallgrass prairie at the Refuge by collecting native plant seeds. The first 45 participants will receive a coupon for a Fee-Free day at participating federal agencies. **Pre-registration required.** Please contact Doreen at 515-994-3400 or email Doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov.



All programs are FREE and open to the public!



Like "Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge" on Facebook!



Special Event



National Wildlife Refuge Week ~ Seed Collection Day Saturday, October 14, 9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.

In honor of J.N. “Ding” Darling, a pioneer conservationist, the Refuge is hosting stewardship opportunities for you and/or your group. From collecting seeds to removing invasive plants, everyone will have a chance to help restore prairie habitat at the Refuge. A FREE lunch will be provided by the Friends of Neal Smith NWR. **Pre-registration is required.** Call 515-994-3400 or email Karen_vistesparkman@fws.gov.

Nature Tots

Children ages 3-5 are invited to bring their favorite adult and join us as we read stories, go outside, make nature crafts, and much more! Pre-registration is requested. To register or for more information, please call 515-994-3400 or email Doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov.

Date	Time	Age	Topic
Saturday, September 2	10:30 am—11:30 am	3 – 5	Magical Monarchs
Saturday, October 7	10:30 am—11:30 am	3 – 5	Colorful Leaves
Saturday, November 4	10:30 am—11:30 am	3 - 5	Prairie Seed Harvest



Fall Photo Hikes

Photographers of all skill levels are invited to join a ranger-led walk. Discover the prairie flowers and wildlife using your lens. Meet at the Prairie Learning Center. Be prepared for the weather and walking off the trails.

Please pre-register by calling 515-994-3400 or email Doreen_Vanryswyk@fws.gov.

Date	Time	Age
Sunday, September 17	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	All Ages
Saturday, October 21	7:00 am - 9:00 am	All Ages
Sunday, November 19	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	All Ages

All programs are FREE and open to the public!



Naturalist Programs

Bison and Elk Walk and Talk Sunday, September 10 at 1:30 p.m.

Take a guided hike along the 1/2 mile Overlook Trail to learn about our national mammal, the American Bison, as well as the majestic elk. Learn about their histories, uses, management, and recovery while having the opportunity to observe the herds. To register or for more information call 515/994-3400 or email Doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov.



Birds and Butterfly Walk Saturday, September 23 at 10:00 a.m.

Join a naturalist for a walk along the 1/2 mile Oak Savanna Trail to look for and learn to identify butterflies and migrating songbirds. To register, please call 515/994-3400 or email Doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov.



Prairie Discovery Walk Sunday, September 24 at 1:30 pm

Join a naturalist for a guided nature walk along the 1/2 mile Overlook Trail and learn about wildlife, wildflowers and management of the refuge. See the prairie in bloom, watch for birds and butterflies, and learn about the bison and elk herds. To register, please call 515/994-3400 or email Doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov.



Fall Hike on the Oak Savanna Trail Saturday, October 21 at 1:00 p.m.

Take a guided hike through the 1/2 mile Oak Savanna Trail to learn about the wildlife, plants and management of the area. Enjoy being outside during the fall season while learning more about your local natural areas. To register or for more information please call 515-994-3400 or email Doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov.



Volunteer Opportunity

Second Saturday Stewardship

Interested in giving back to the environment and learning about the prairie? Stewardship volunteer programs occur on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Refuge. **To register, call 515/994-3400 or email Doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov or (515) 994-3400.**



DON'T FORGET!

Bring a reusable water bottle!

Date	Time	Age
September 9	9:00 am—12:00 pm	All
October 14	9:00 am—12:00 pm	All
November 11	9:00 am—12:00 pm	All



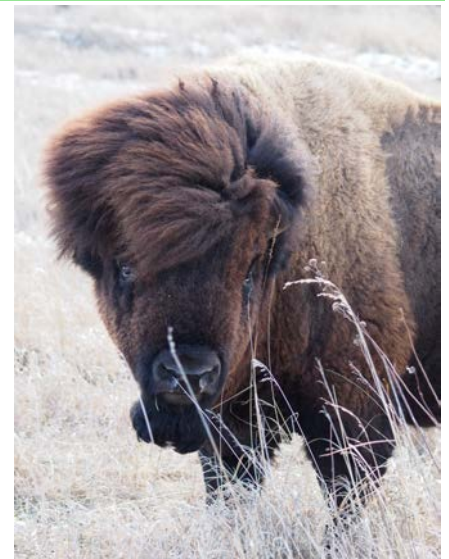
Photography Exhibit Reception Sunday, November 12, 2:00 p.m. ~ 4:00 p.m.

Come to the Prairie Learning Center to see the winners of the 2017 Photo Contest, as well as images from Refuge photo hikes. Light refreshments will be available. The exhibit will be displayed in the J.N. "Ding" Darling Art Gallery at the Prairie Learning Center during November and December.

The Visitor Center is open every day with the exception of most federal holidays. Closed all federal holidays except Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day. Visitor Center hours are 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday - Saturday, and 12 p.m. - 5p.m. on Sundays. Trails and Auto Tour are open daily from dawn to dusk.

Hiking Trails

Take a hike through the beautiful tallgrass prairie or oak savanna. Try to catch a glimpse of birds, bison, or diverse insects. Brochures and maps available at the Visitor Center.



Return to Wildness Movie

Fifteen minute film presentation about Neal Smith NWR is shown every hour on the half hour, or upon request. No group is too small!

COME VISIT!

Enjoy the Refuge from the comfort of your vehicle on the 4 mile Auto Tour. This is the best way to see bison or elk. Check out a narrated interpretive CD of the route for FREE at the Visitor Center.



Follow Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge for activity updates!